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VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1873. NO. 75.

FIRST EDITION

THE VIRGINIUS.

THE KANSAS AND JUNIATA AT SANTIAGO.

NO DEMAND FOR THE PRISONERS YET MADE.

Statement From Jovellar.

He Anticipates Nothing but Peace and Tranquility.

THE KANSAS ARRIVES AT BERMUDA.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8.—A dispatch received at the Navy Department from Commodore Allen C. Reed, United States steamer Kansas, dated Bermuda Island, November 24, announces the arrival of the vessel there on the evening of November 23. She encountered a heavy sea and violent squalls when about one hundred and fifty miles to southward and eastward of Cape Hatteras, and was forced, as a matter of safety, to keep away.

THE KANSAS ARRIVES AT SANTIAGO—NO DEMAND YET MADE FOR THE PRISONERS.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, December 3.—The United States steamer Kansas arrived here yesterday, after a hard passage. She was driven out of her course and finally compelled to put into Bermuda for coal. The commanders of the Kansas and Juniata have not yet made a formal demand for the delivery of the Virginius prisoners. The latter were removed from jail to Morra fort this morning. The French war steamer Kersiante and the British sloop of war Niobe are in the harbor.

HAVANA ADVICES—CAPTAIN GENERAL REMAINS AND IS CONFIDENT OF PEACE—THE PRISONERS TAKE AN EXCURSION.

HAVANA, December 7.—Captain General Jovellar authorizes the statement that the entire island is tranquil. He has no doubt that all will be arranged peaceably and satisfactorily without the slightest difficulty. He now declares that he does not intend to leave Havana or transfer his power into the hands of General Morilo. The feeling of the people in Havana is quieter, and no disturbance is apprehended. The disposition to comply with the mandates of the home government, and the obligations of treaty with the United States without further discussion, is becoming general.

The General commanding at Santiago de Cuba, in the absence of General Burriel, acting without orders, placed ninety-two of the Virginius prisoners aboard the Spanish man-of-war Bazan and sent them to the Cienfuegos. The few remaining prisoners were either to ill to be removed, or being youths of tender age have been set at liberty. The prisoners while at Santiago, were well treated by the authorities, and in no way molested by the populace. When the Spanish steamer Isabel Cherigos the commander announced by telegraph to Havana his arrival with the prisoners. The Captain General answered by ordering the immediate return of the Bazan and prisoners to Santiago, where they must have arrived by this time.

GENERAL FORREST VOLUNTEERS—HIS LETTER AND GENERAL SHERMAN'S REPLY.

MEMPHIS, December 8.—The *Appeal* will publish to-morrow the following correspondence:

MEMPHIS, TENN., November 20, 1873.

To General W. T. Sherman, Commander-in-Chief United States Army, Washington, D. C:

DEAR GENERAL—By telegrams from Washington and other sources, it appears that we are likely to become involved in a war with Spain. If so, I presume the seat of war will be in Cuba. In case we should become involved and the Government should need assistance, I hereby tender to you my services as a volunteer. I think I could enlist from one to five thousand men who served in the Southern army during the late war, and who could and who would rendezvous at New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola and Key West either as cavalry or infantry. Yours, very respectfully,

"N. B. FORREST."

GENERAL SHERMAN'S REPLY.

"Headquarters Army of the United States, }
"Washington, D. C., November 28, 1873. }

"*To N. B. Forrest, Memphis:*

"SIR—Your letter of the 20th is received, and I have sent it to the War Department with this indorsement: 'Respectfully referred to the Secretary of War for file. Among the hundreds of offers that come to me, I deem this worthy a place among the archives, to wait coming events. I regard N. B. Forrest as one of the most extraordinary men produced by our civil war, and were it left to me, in the event of a war requiring cavalry, I would unhesitatingly accept his services and give him a prominent place. We believe now we have to fight against our national enimies as vehemently as he did against us, and that is saying enough.

(Signed) "'W. T. SHERMAN, General.'

"I don't believe there will be war, for neither government wants war. Again, in the event of war with Spain, on account of Cuba, the bulk of the fighting would be afloat, for whoever commands the sea can have Cuba. We may not now have sufficient heavy iron-clad ships, but then some could be had, and we have an abundance of good naval officers and seamen, when the result would be certain, leaving for the land forces the small task of occupation. No part of these will likely fall to your lot or to me, and therefore I have sent you ur latter to the War Departent, which can only act after Congress declares war and provides them means for its prosecution. W. T. SHERMAN."

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Russia.

INCREASING THE ARMY.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 8.—A ukase has been issued requiring that six men out of every thousand inhabitants in Russia, including the Polish provinces, be drafted into the army.

Spain.

STRENGTH OF THE RESERVES.

MADRID, December 8.—The Minister of War reports that the reserve recently called out numbers 46,000 men.

Marine Items.

LIVERPOOL, December 8.—Steamships Celtic and Silesia, from New York, and Indiana, from Philadelphia, arrived out.

The steamships City of Brooklyn, from New York, and Scandinavian, from Portland, arrived out.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 8.—Amount of bullion gone into bank on balance to-day £15,000. Consols for money 91¾@92; for the acct of 93, 93½; do '87, 97⅝; 10-40s, 91¾; new 6s, 91⅝; New York Central 77⅝; Erie 39; Erie preferred 52. Tallow 40s 3d.

PARIS, December 8.—Rentes 57 francs 95 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 8—5-20s 92, 97½.

LIVERPOOL, December 8.—Cotton quiet; middling upland at 8⅞@8¾d; Orleans 8¾@8¾d; sales 12,000 bales; American 9,000 bales; speculation and export 2,000. Breadstuffs quiet. Pork 36s 3d@s 6d. Pork 72s 6d. Petroleum—refined 12½d. Others unchanged.

ANTWERP, December 8.—Refined petroleum 32 francs.

CRIMES.

Burglars to be Pilloried, Whipped and Imprisoned.

NEW CASTLE DEL., December 8.—The bank burglars were to-day sentenced to pay a fine of $500 and the costs of prosecution and on Wednesday next to stand in the pillory one hour and receive thirty lashes on the back and then to suffer imprisonment for ten years.

Trains Delayed on the Wheeling, Pittsburgh and Baltimore Railroad.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WEST ALEXANDER, PA., December 8, 1873.

A fall of earth in tunnel No. 4, on the Wheeling, Pittsburgh and Baltimore Railroad, to-day, detained all trains.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 8, 1873.

CUBAN MEETING.

A Cuban mass meeting in the cause of humanity, will be held here on Friday evening next.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

The Catholic churches are crowded this morning on the occasion of the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception and Consecration of the entire Diocese, with all its churches, religious houses and educational institutions, collectively and singly, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

IRVING CONVICTED OF BURGLARY.

John T. Irving, of Nathan murder notoriety was convicted to-day on a charge of burglary and remanded for sentence.

HOWES AND MACY.

A petition has been filed praying that Howes and Macy may be placed in bankruptcy.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Outstanding legal tenders amount to $999,637,310.

The steamships Elyria and Virginia, from Glasgow, and Moselle, from Bremen, have arrived at New York.

A dispatch from Boston announces the death of Seth Adams and the serious illness of Professor Agassiz.

The Republic, from Liverpool, arrived at New York last night.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1873.

SENATE.

Mr. CHANDLER presented a joint resolution of the Legislature of Michigan, asking for the construction of the Niagara Ship Canal. Also, a joint resolution of that Legislature, asking for a survey for a canal across the State, which was laid on the table.

Mr. CONKLING presented a petition of the Chamber of Commerce of New York, in regard to the resumption of specie payments. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Mr. STEVENSON introduced a bill providing that the "busts" of the late Chief Justices R. B. Taney and S. P. Chase be placed in the Supreme Court room. Referred to Library Committee.

Mr. WINDOM introduced a bill to incorporate the Southern Trans-Continental Railroad Company and to grant a right of way through public land to same. Referred to Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. SHERMAN introduced a bill to authorize the organization of National banks without circulation. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCOTT introduced a bill amendatory of an act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. WEST introduced a bill for the better protection of public works on the Mississippi river. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. LOGAN introduced a bill to provide for cheap and permanent transportation for persons and freight between New York and Chicago. He said as there would probably be some question as to the power of Congress to enact this law, he would ask that the bill be referred to the Judiciary Committee. It was so ordered.

Mr. WRIGHT introduced a bill to authorize the construction of a fire-proof building at Keokuk. Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

After the introduction of a large number of bills, James R. Young was elected Executive Clerk, and Rev. Byron Sunderland Chaplain of the Senate.

Mr. COOPER introduced a bill for the relief of the East Tennessee University. Referred.

Mr. DAVIS, of West Virginia, gave notice that at an early day he would introduce a bill restoring to newspapers the privileges abolished in the bill repealing franking privileges.

Mr. PRATT introduced a bill to establish a National University of Education and Labor.

Mr. CROZIER introduced a bill to erect a public building at Leavenworth, Kansas. Referred.

Mr. GORDON moved that the papers in the case of Francis W. Sykes, of Alabama, be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, with power to send for persons and papers. It was so ordered. Mr. Sykes is contestant for the seat now occupied by Mr. Spencer.

Mr. WRIGHT called up the bill introduced by him on Monday last, to repeal the act of March 3, 1873, increasing certain salaries therein named, and addressed the Senate at length in favor thereof. He said that what the country wants is men who are not for sale, men who are sound from center to circumference, who have courage without whistling to bring it, who eat what they have earned, and wear what they have paid for; with such men, high or low salaries made little difference. He favored a liberal compensation, but thought that allowed before the increase was sufficient, and that it was best now to fix salaries as they were before. To retrace their steps at the earliest practicable moment was the easiest way to rectify an unpardonable blunder. He denounced the manner by which salaries were increased as most vicious and defenceless, tacked on to an appropriation bill, where the Executive could not veto it without stopping the wheels of government. He had no doubt that this was the cause of the recommendation of the President in his late message, that he be allowed at the close of a session to veto one portion of a bill without defeating the whole of it. In conclusion he called upon the great Republican party to retrace its steps on the salary bill and satisfy the people that they was true to its promises. No party in so few years had made such a grand record, and it could well and consistently afford to rebuke injustice. He desired that the avenues of trade be opened by giving cheaper transportation to the products of the great West and people should have an abundance of currency to meet the demands of business. He asked that the bill be referred to the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment. It was so ordered. The Senate went into executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House proceeded to the first business in order on Mondays—call of States for bills for reference only. Under the call a large number of public and private bills were introduced and referred.

Mr. NEGLEY introduced and asked to be put on its passage, a bill modifying the steamboat passenger act, by allowing towboats on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to carry 150 pounds of steam pressure in place of 110 pounds, or standard boilers of 42 inches diameter with plates one-quarter of an inch in thickness. He explained the bill and stated that it did not change the existing law, but only extended it, as the law would expire by limitation very soon. The bill was passed.

Mr. McLEAN, from the Committee on Rules, reported a bill removing all disabilities imposed and remaining on any person by the 3d section of the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution, and substituting for the iron-clad oath a modified oath now administered to persons from whom disabilities had been removed.

Mr. LAWRENCE asked whether, under that law, Jefferson Davis might not obtain a seat in either House.

Mr. G. L. HOAR inquired whether the Committee on Rules had a right to report such an act of general legislation.

The SPEAKER doubted very much whether that committee had a right to report it, except under a call.

Mr. G. F. HOAR said he would not insist on the point.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, said he would.

Mr. MAYNARD moved to suspend the rules and receive and pass the bill. In reply to Mr. Lawrence's question, he said the late President of the Southern Confederacy might as well as the Vice President, have a seat in either house, provided the people should think proper to send him.

Mr. BUTLER said he would not object to the bill if it had been examined by, and was reported from a committee.

Mr. MAYNARD said it was the unanimous report of a committee.

The bill was then passed by a vote of 141 to 29.

After a great many propositions, a bill to repeal the salary law was made the special order for to-morrow, after the morning hour.

Bills were introduced by Mr. McKEE for the admission of Colorado as a State; by Mr. Monroe, to provide for the issue of millions additional bank note circulation for the States having less than their due proportion; by Mr. Bundy, for the payment of loss by the Morgan raid; by Mr. Arthur, to make Covington, Kentucky, a port of entry and delivery, also to repeal the bill to enforce civil rights; by Mr. Whitborne, to repeal all taxes on whisky and tobacco, and to provide for the deficiency in the revenue thereby occasioned; by Mr. Farwell, to provide for cheap transportation between Chicago and New York; by Mr. Knapp, for a public building at Quincy, Illinois; by Mr. Burchard, to divide Illinois into three judicial districts; by Mr. Comingo, for a public building at Kansas City; by Mr. Crittenden, for a public building at Jefferson City, Mo.; by Mr. Hibbard, for the Niagara Falls ship canal; by Mr. Field, for the issue of national currency and 3-65-100 government bonds, to be interchangeable; by Mr. Mitchell, for the improvement of the Kankakee and Milwaukee and Port Washington, Wisconsin; by Mr. Williams, for the improvement of the Kenosha and Racine harbors; by Mr. Hereford, for the improvement of the Great Kanawha river and for a public building at Charlestown, West Virginia.

Mr. COX asked permission to report a preamble and resolution recognizing Cuban belligerency.

Mr. HALE, of New York, Mr. Killinger and others objected.

Mr. COX withdrew the preamble and moved to suspend the rules and pass the resolution. The motion was rejected by a vote of 44 to 153, and the Speaker ruled that the resolution was not before the House.

Mr. COX asked leave to introduce the resolution for reference to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but objection was made by members.

Mr. HALE, of Maine, from the Select Committee on the salary question, reported a bill repealing so much of the salary bill as increases the compensation of the Vice President, Speaker, Senators, Representatives and Delegates to Congress. The second section revives and declares to be in force all acts relating to the pay and allowance of Senators and members that were repealed or suspended by the act of the 3d of March, 1873, provided that they shall receive no mileage for coming to and from the present session except actual individual traveling expenses by the most direct route of usual travel. The third section requires the Secretary of the Treasury to cover into the Treasury all sums that may remain undrawn or that have been received as increased compensation, which shall have or may come into his possession by the operation thereof.

Mr. KASSON from the minority of the committee submitted a report of which was signed by himself and Mr. DeWitt. They declare themselves unsatisfied with the bill reported by the majority, and state their reasons therefore: First, That the emphatic and continued protest of the great majority of the American people, in all forms that should influence their judgment against the increase of salaries, should take the question of its repeal out of the field of debate; second, That the depressed financial condition of the country requires economy in disbursements, from the public treasury, and especially in respect to those of which members are themselves beneficiaries; no public act would go further than this to establish the confidence of the people in their representatives; third, that the popular dissatisfaction with the salary bill was chiefly directed toward the lawmakers who increased their own emoluments; the President, however, was part of the national legislative party, and to that officer had been assigned the much largest increase of salary; his salary could not lawfully be diminished during the present term, but it could be reduced from the close thereof. The minority, however, deem it necessary to reduce the incidental allowances of the presidential office so far as compatible with the care and safety of public property. They recommend that all compensations increased by the act of the 3d of March, 1873, be re-established at their former rates, subject to the constitutional exception, excepting also the franking privilege. The bill accompanying the report makes provisions to carry out these views.

Mr. MAYNARD gave notice of an amendment to suspend the salary bill during the Forty-third Congress, instead of repealing it.

Mr. POLAND gave notice of a substitute which he thought would meet the popular demand. (Laughter.) The substitute was read. It repeals so much of the salary act as increased the pay of Senators and Representatives, and fixes it at what it was immediately prior to that act. It requires that all moneys paid to Senators and Representatives of the Forty-third Congress under the provisions of that act, whether for the Forty-second or Forty-third Congress, shall be charged and reckoned as part payment of their compensation as members of the Forty-third Congress. (Laughter.) It requires the Treasurer of the United States to mail to each member of the Forty-second Congress who is not a member of the Forty-third, and who received additional compensation, a notice informing him of the repeal of the law and requesting him to repay the difference received by him into the Treasury.

Mr. NIBLOCK said that as a member of the committee, he agreed to most of the propositions submitted by the minority, but dissented from some of them. In the course of a protracted discussion as to the disposition to be made of the bill, Mr. Garfield recommended Mr. Hale to move the previous question and pass the bill at once. He recalled the long discussion which took place years ago on a like subject to the exclusion of other public business and suggested that the House was prepared to vote at once on the simple repeal of the increase of salary law.

Mr. KELLEY asked Mr. Hale whether his bill took effect from the first day of the present Congress.

Mr. HALE replied that it did not.

Mr. KELLEY argued that it ought to, and that the passage of a bill which did not do so, would place the House in a worse position before the American people than any legislation which yet had been had.

Mr. WOODFORD moved the previous question in order to put the bill on its passage at once, but the House refused to second the demand, by 64 to 132, and finally it was arranged that the matter should come up to-morrow after the morning hour, to the exclusion of all other orders, speeches to be limited to twenty minutes, and a motion to recommit being all the while pending.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, asking for increased appropriations. Referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. SMITH, of New York, from the Committee on Elections, reported a resolution that Mr. Shanks, of Indiana, was entitled to a seat from the Ninth district. Without discussion or opposition, the resolution was adopted, and Mr. Shanks took the oath of office.

Mr. MOREY moved to suspend the rules and make a supplementary civil rights bill. After an exhaustion of dilatory motions on the Democratic side to prevent action on the bill.

Mr. WILLARD, of Vermont, appealed to Mr. Morey to let the bill be referred to the Judiciary Committee. It was so referred, with a proviso that on Thursday next, the House, at four o'clock, went into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. RANDALL, from the Committee on Rules, reported a bill to add to the Standing Committees of the House, a Committee of seven on Mississippi Levees.

Resolutions distributing the President's Message among appropriate committees were presented and adopted.

Mr. MYERS, of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution requiring information relative to the effect of the abolition of the state banking privilege. Adopted, and the House adjourned.

POLITICAL.

State.

The highest legal authority in the land, the editor of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, declares that the opinion of the Supreme Court in the matter of the Election Commissioners of the Constitutional Convention "is clearly and ably stated;" but in saying this, the editor does not wish to be "understood that it is either exhaustive or convincing; for to our judgment it is neither." The Supreme Court would save trouble by calling upon the *Ledger* man to write its opinions hereafter.

A dispatch from Doylestown says: The excitement on the subject of Constitutional change is growing, and it is all one-sided. Bucks county will give a large majority against it from present appearances. Several meetings have already been held, and the people are firm in their opposition. A meeting was held at Hilltown on Saturday afternoon and evening, and a discussion took place between Colonel Joseph McClure and Hon. J. R. Snowden in favor, and Hon. George Lear and Hon. Caleb N. Taylor against its adoption. The opponents of the new Constitution were largely in the majority. Meetings will be held to-morrow evening at Newtown, where Hon. George Lear and Hon. Caleb N. Taylor will discuss the benefits of the increased taxation, and at Newport Hon. Caleb N. Taylor will speak against it as the advocate of farmers' rights. On Monday night a meeting is to be held again at Bristol. The depreciation of bank insurance and other securities has commenced, and will be greatly increased if there is any granduatry of the Constitution being adopted. The Hulmeville *Beacon*, the Bristol *Gazette*, and the Bristol *Observer* are actively opposing it, and will soon receive great accessions.

One by one the members of the bar in different parts of the State who gave their support to the new Constitution without first giving it proper thought, are withdrawing their countenance from the nondescript work. S. G. Morrison, Esq., of Williamsport, who united with a number of other lawyers in recommending the people to vote for its adoption, now publishes a card, in which he points out a number of the glaring blunders of the instrument and advises his friends and neighbors to vote against it.

The Philadelphia *Sunday Republican* says: The rooms of the Election Commissioners appointed by the Constitutional Convention yesterday, presented a rather gloomy appearance. The Commissioners had labored indefatigably, until Friday's decision by the Supreme Court, and had appointed all the judges and inspectors, to the number of eleven hundred. The inspectors had been authorized to make the registration of voters, and they had so far progressed with their duties that one hundred and seventy-six of them had completed the canvass and returned their books. The others had nearly completed their lists. The Commissioners has also caused all the polling places, three hundred and sixty-seven in number, to be visited, with a view of ascertaining whether any change would have to be made in the polling places, and whether they would be ready for holding the election. They had also to furnish a list of the places where changes were necessary. They had also completed the entire distribution of the ballot-boxes, and were to have commenced yesterday morning the distribution of the tickets, marked "For the Constitution" and "Against the Constitution." Thus far the board have incurred expenses aggregating about $10,000. Yesterday the Commissioners held a meeting, the proceedings of which were private.

General.

Mr. Negley, of Pennsylvania, who wanted the House to take its time about repealing the increase of salary law, twitted Mr. Cox, of New York, with having taken his time for consideration whether to retain his back pay or not. The taunt came with bad grace from Mr. Negley. Mr. Cox voted against the bill every time and covered his back pay into the Treasury without delay. Mr. Negley voted for the bill every time and lost no time in drawing his back pay, which has never been refunded, so far as heard from. We are sorry to say that Mr. Negley is a Republican while Mr. Cox is a Democrat. Some of the leaders of the Republicans in the present Congress have planted themselves squarely in opposition to the position of Mr. Negley, whilst the majority of the Democrats are squarely opposed to the stand of Mr. Cox.—[*Cleveland Herald*.

A circular has been issued, signed by D. Lawrence, of Howard county, and Wm. Webster, Dr. M. Merryman and Jervis Spencer, of Baltimore county, Md., "committee on organization," calling upon the friends of political reform throughout the State, of all parties, to meet together in Baltimore to consider the practicability of the representation of minorities as a step toward the proper administration of public affairs. The call includes all those who are "anxious to adopt measures by which the power of parties for evil may be reduced and the people at large exercise more power in those bodies, executive, legislative and judicial, which deliberate upon their interests and disburse the public funds, and desirous to cooperate with existing political organizations in their efforts to secure the public welfare."

On Wednesday last Mr. Kasson, of Iowa, asked unanimous consent to introduce and have printed a bill to repeal the increase of salary law of last session. Objection was made and it lies over. Now, let us see that the Democrats in Congress maintain a vigorous armed neutrality in this little affair. The Radicals compose about two-thirds of the whole number, and it is but fair that they should wear all the honors to be won or lost. —*Altoona Sun.*

"Vigorous, armed neutrality" is not the Democracy's favorite policy in this matter, by any means. They have already decided, by an almost unanimous vote, that the "honors" are not to be worn by them; "on the contrary, quite the reverse." They will stand up for salary and other grabs as long as there is a dollar within reach.

New Patent.

The Great White River Flour is now being made under a new patent and is said to be giving general satisfaction. It is now the leading brand in this market.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

The General Amnesty Bill.

MAGNANIMITY OF THE HOUSE

IMMENSE NUMBER OF BILLS INTRODUCED.

THE BACK-PAY BUSINESS.

Secretary Robeson Asks for $5,000,000 for the Navy.

VICE PRESIDENT WILSON'S MOVEMENTS.

JUDGE WILLIAMS STILL ATTORNEY GENERAL.

NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1873.

General Amnesty.

The passage of the general amnesty bill, which also repeals the test oath of 1862, indicates the magnanimity of the House. The test oath, however, has for some time been a dead letter, as, almost without exception, any one elected by the people has been sworn in.

Number of Bills Offered.

If the number of bills is to regulate the amount of business done during the present session, the country will be well supplied with legislation. To-day 262 bills and resolutions were introduced. This, added to the torrent poured into the House last Thursday, makes over six hundred on the calendar of the House alone. Many were partially considered last session. The bulk will never leave the committees.

The Salary Bill.

The introduction of Mr. Hale's bill, repealing the increased pay, was not greeted with enthusiasm. In the House, to-day, the bill was not agreed upon unanimously. An opportunity being presented to offer amendments, no less than sixteen were rushed in, in less than ten minutes. The House treats this matter very delicately, and will endeavor to dispose of it to-morrow. The Committee of Ways and Means will report favorably upon the bill which passed the Senate for the redemption of the loan of 1858.

Naval Appropriation.

The House Committee on Appropriations will to-morrow consider the letter of the Secretary of the Navy asking an appropriation of five millions for the fitting out of the navy. The Secretary to-day had a long conference on appropriations with the committee, in which he gave many particulars respecting the nature of the present warlike preparations. The amount thus far consumed has reached one half of the eighteen millions appropriated for the naval establishment for the present fiscal year. The committee will report the bill favorably, and there is no doubt that the House will pass it promptly.

Feeling on War Claims.

Since the war, a number of claims have been presented for loss of property sustained in consequence of the war. These come chiefly from the border States, and some have been favorably acted upon. The legality of their recognition is questioned by a considerable party in both houses, and were all to be included, the appropriations of the country would have to pay about twenty millions. The House Judiciary Committee have a proposition before them ignoring this class of claims entirely.

Vice President Wilson

will leave here at the end of the week, for his home in Massachusetts, after which he will proceed to Florida for a sojourn of several weeks. His absence will necessitate the election of a President of the Senate *pro tem.*

Case of Judge Williams.

The Senate Judiciary Committee to-day considered the nomination of Attorney General Williams for Chief Justice. A degree of opposition was shown which indicates an unfavorable report. Consideration of the matter is postponed again. It was supposed by some that the report would be made in Executive session to-day, but the question is by no means settled. Every day that is considered as lessening the chances of confirmation. Judge Williams was at the Supreme Court and capitol to-day.

Dissolution of the Syndicate.

It is understood that the syndicate has been dissolved. The Rothschilds and Barings, bankers of London, declining to have business relations with Jay Cooke, McCulloch & Co.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1873.

MINISTER SICKLES' RESIGNATION.

There is a reluctance in official quarters to talk about the anticipated or actual resignation of Minister Sickles, pending the protocol. There is no doubt it was owing to the unsatisfactory conduct of Sickles that negotiations were frozen out at Washington by Secretary Fish and Admiral Polo. General Sickles, being a retired officer with a salary of $5,625, was at liberty to go where he pleased; and in accepting the office of Minister to Spain, on May, 1869, he has drawn the actual salary of $12,000 for this service, but nothing on the army account, as the law prohibits the drawing of more than one salary. On this retirement as Minister, he will draw his army pay.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate: Postmasters—Nelson M. Page, Fort Dodge, Iowa; L. A. Hamlin, Owasco, N. Y.; D. Deboode, Lexington, Mo.; Wm. H. Mann, Gilman, Ill.; H. L. Boise, Sycamore, Ill.; Lucius Whitney, Morris, Ill.; C. Y. Long, Carthage, Ill.; R. P. McKnight, Virden, Ill.; Henry Gorby, Fairbury, Illinois; Charles M. Taylor, Winona, Illinois; John R. Cameron, Ottawa, Illinois; Eliza J. Graves, Onaga, Illinois; Mr. R. Tritt, Farmer City, Illinois; Thomas Moore, Metropolis City, Illinois; Daniel W. Hilt, Urbana, Ohio; Mrs. Lavonia Adair, Portsmouth, Ohio; Jas. N. R. Johnston, Crete, Nebraska; A. B. Chamberlain, Ashland, Nebraska.

NAVAL APPROPRIATION ASKED FOR.

The Secretary of the Navy to-day sent the following letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which has been referred to the Committee on Appropriations: "Under the circumstances of the present emergency, I am compelled to ask that a special appropriation be made to cover the expenses of putting the iron clad and cruise navy of the United States in condition for immediate and active service. I have taken measures to put every available iron and wooden ship of the navy in condition for immediate duty; I have ordered all ships of the various squadrons within reach, to rendezvous at Key West: I am enlisting men to supply and fill up the crews of all our vessels; I have accumulated materials, provisions and supplies for their maintenance and support, and ordnance, ammunition and all weapons of naval warfare for their use. Any circumstances which have constrained the department to this unusual activity and consequent expenditure, are known to you and to the country. The fact that they occurred during the recess of Congress made it necessary that I should myself assume the responsibility of ordering such action, relying upon the wisdom and justice of the people and their representatives for support. I have not as yet exceeded the appropriations for the current year, but these measures, with the cost of preparing, transporting and concentrating everything necessary to carry them out, have already almost exhausted the money of the working branches of the department, and this must be supplied at once, if work is to go on. The cost of putting our iron clads in service, a work already undertaken and in some instances far advanced, will also require a large appropriation. The amount required to reimburse the bureaus so as to carry them through this year, and also to put the iron clad monitors in order, will not be less than $4,000,000. If our force is to be increased, or if the powerful double-turretted monitors Miantonomah, Monadnoc and Puritan are to be put in condition for usefulness, at least $1,000,000 more will be required." The Secretary had a long conference with the Committee on Appropriations to-day, and will have another to-morrow.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following nominations: Martin Welker, District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, *vice* Charles T. Sherman, resigned; W. S. Lurty, United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia; Wm. W. Bellson, for the District of Minnesota; Robert N. McLaren, Marshal for the District of Minnesota; Geo. R. Maxwell, Marshal for the Territory of Utah; H. C. Hall, of Connecticut, Consul General at Havana; Emory P. Beauchamp, of Indiana, Consul at Aix-la-Chappelle; John L. Near, of Michigan, Consul at Windsor, Canada; Louis E. Cropsey, of Nebraska, Consul at Chemnitz; A. Bridgland, of Indiana, Consul at Havre; Samuel L. Glasgow, of Iowa, Consul at Glasgow; Isaac H. Moulton, Surveyor of Customs at LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Wm. W. Copeland, Surveyor of Customs for Omaha, Nebraska; H. F. Carter, Surveyor of Customs for St. Josephs, Missouri. Collectors of Internal Revenue, Wm. B. Elliott, 1st Pennsylvania; Edward H. Chase, 12th Pennsylvania; David F. Williams, 15th Pennsylvania; Jonathan Merriman, 7th Illinois; John Tillson, 9th Illinois; Adam Vose, 3d Illinois; A. R. Easton, of Maine, Pension Agent at St. Louis; Daniel A. Goodloe, Pension Agent at Covington, Kentucky; Alexander Shepard, Governor of the District of Columbia; Postmasters, John A. Myler, Allegheny, Pa.; Robert W. Cram, Petrolia, Pa.; J. E. West, St. Cloud, Minn.; Joseph Bobtelier, New Ulm, Minn.

SUDDEN DEATH OF JUDGE UNDERWOOD.

John O. Underwood, United States District Judge for the District of Virginia, died suddenly last night of apoplexy, at his residence in Washington. During yesterday he seemed in better health and spirits than usual.

SECRETARY BELKNAP

left Washington to-day for a brief visit to Kentucky.

PROSECUTIONS IN UTAH.

The Supreme Court to day decided that the Attorney General of Utah, and not the United States Attorney, is entitled to prosecute persons accused of offences against the laws of the Territory.

FORT WAYNE.

Death of a Prominent Citizen—Highwaymen Captured.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, December 8, 1873.

Chas. D. Bond, Esq., President of the Fort Wayne National bank, an old and highly esteemed citizen, died last evening of typhoid pneumonia. This is the greatest calamity ever fallen on this city by death, as Mr. Bond was one of the main financial props of Fort Wayne.

Two weeks ago a peddler was knocked down and robbed of everything he possessed, even his clothes having been taken off his back. The police have been on the track of the miscreants, and have at last succeeded in capturing one, and yesterday morning the passenger train on the Chicago railroad brought on the other, who was knocked off the track a few miles east of this city, by the train, and terribly bruised. He is in a critical condition.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA

Barn and Contents Burned—Young Man Injured by Oil Explosion—Death of an Old Citizen.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BLAIRSVILLE, PA., December 8, 1873.

On Friday afternoon last, a barn with all its contents, the property of Wm. Day, of Derry township, Westmoreland county, was burned to the ground. The horses and cattle were saved. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. No insurance.

James Knee, son of the proprietor of the Myers House, attempting to kindle a fire in a stove, poured carbon oil on the coal, which ignited and communicated to the can, which exploded. The boy was badly burned in the face.

Robert Doty, Esq., an aged and respected citizen, died at his residence this morning.

WASHINGTON, PA.

Session of Common Pleas—The New Constitution.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., December 8, 1873.

The regular December term of the Court of Common Pleas of this county opened to-day, Judge Acheson on the bench.

A meeting favoring the adoption of the new State Constitution will be held in the Court House to-night.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9th, 1 A. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For New England, cloudy weather and rain in the southern portion, and snow in Maine, and thence westward to the St. Lawrence valley. For the Middle States, frost and brisk southeasterly to south-westerly winds, with cloudy weather and rain. For the lake region, brisk and high variable winds and stormy weather. For the South Atlantic States, slightly rising temperature, with light winds and cloudy weather, followed by rain Tuesday evening. For the Gulf States, light easterly to southerly winds, with light rain, followed by clearing weather and lower temperature Tuesday evening. For the Ohio valley and Tennessee, cloudy and threatening weather, with rain in the easterly portion of the latter, clearing weather with lower temperature in the central Mississippi valley. Colder and partly cloudy weather may be expected in the northwest. Reports have not been received from the upper lake region, the northwest and westward to the Pacific coast.

Midnight Bulletin.

DECEMBER 8, 1873—10:42 P. M.

PLACE OF OBSERVATION.	Ther.	Direct'n	Weather.
Cairo, Ill.	59	S E	Light rain.
Cincinnati, O.	58	S	Light rain.
Davenport, Iowa.	36	W	Clearing.
Lawrenceburg, Ind.	58	N	Light rain.
Louisville, Ky.	56	S E	Light rain.
Memphis, Tenn.	60	S E	Cloudy
Nashville, Tenn.	58	Calm	Cloudy.
New Orleans, La.	65	S E	Fair.
Pittsburgh, Pa.	58	S W	Light rain.
St. Louis, Mo.	50	Calm	Cloudy.
Shreveport.	66	S	Cloudy.
Indianapolis.	38	S	Cloudy.
St. Paul.	23	S W	Light snow.
LaCrosse, Wis.	37	W	Cloudy.

CASUALTIES.

Another Boy Didn't Know it was Loaded.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MINNIE SICKLES' RESIGNATION.

Three br

The Daily Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1873.

And now a scientific authority states that carbolic acid is not a disinfectant. That's bad for the back-paysters.

Our morning contemporaries are still pumping thunder on the Constitutional question but they seem to find it mighty hard work.

A Bourbon sheet praises the "brilliancy" of the New York *World's* malignant assaults on the administration—not remembering that the more phosphorescent the fish, the rottener also.

Here and there may be found a Democratic paper laboriously deprecating the course of the recent caucus action of the Democratic salary-grabbers. But what was Dundreary's conundrum about a canine and a caudal appendage?

Not least among the multitudinous industries of the United States is the wool interest. The market shows increasingly encouraging signs of healthy activity. Over three million pounds of wool were sold at Boston last week, the largest week's sale of the season without exception, and the price has advanced two cents per pound.

The Forty-third Congress is remarkable for three peculiarities: It is the largest legislative body that ever assembled in the capitol; it contains the greatest number of new members, and it has the strongest representation of ex-Confederates. Let us hope it may also develop the equally important peculiarities of inflexible honesty, and strict attention to the people's business.

According to the New York papers, the total receipts of foreign dry goods at that port for the eleven months of the present year, fall twenty millions below the corresponding returns for last year. The goods included in this class arriving at New York are now less than one-third of the total imports at that port, and this decrease in one branch of our foreign trade alone is very suggestive. More encouraging still, it holds true in nearly the same proportion of the imports of general merchandise.

Time, at length, sets all things even. Alexander H. Stephens, ex-Vice President of that Confederacy whose very corner stone, he boasted, was human slavery, instead of human liberty—the colleague of Toombs, and Yancy, and the Rhetts, now occupies a seat in Congress on a common level with a half dozen dark-skinned members of the very race on whose unrequited toil and suffering the detestable structure of which he was a chief officer was, avowedly, to be reared. The fact is wonderfully suggestive.

We judge, from the tenor of the reports which come from Washington concerning the financial question, that the clearness with which the President, in his Message, stated his own views, will do much toward bringing about harmony among all who are united in desiring the same end. Both Senators and members express considerable respect for the boldness and good sense with which the President has handled a subject as to which scarcely any two trained financiers can agree on the details. It is anticipated that the main features of his plans will secure a working majority in both Houses.

It is reported from Washington that a bill will be introduced in the House some time after Christmas, looking to the extension of certain patents for sewing machine companies. It will be remembered that an effort was made to obtain such an extension during the last season. The press of the country, however, by its vigilance and the weighty influence which it brought to bear on Congress, caused the withdrawal of the rapacious scheme before being put to a vote. Once more we call upon the journals of the country to checkmate the avaricious designs of the conscienceless leeches whose fatness has been sucked from the poverty of the hardworking mothers and daughters of the land.

The Allentown *Chronicle* rejoices that the people have so short a time in which to consider the merits and demerits of that remarkable instrument, the proposed new Constitution, as there *is* already "a strong opposition manifesting itself among the people, and growing in strength." "It is a good thing," the *Chronicle* continues, "that the election is to be held at so early a day as next Tuesday week, or, we fear, it would be in danger of defeat." Buckalew and his Democratic colleagues, who so deftly manipulated the Republican majority in the Convention, had a thorough appreciation of this fact; hence the indecently limited time allowed for the study of the iniquity by the people who are to be governed under its provisions.

The Democratic papers are jubilating over the election of the Democratic State ticket in Texas. They are welcome to all the satisfaction they derive from the result. Throughout the entire canvass the Democratic press occupied itself in recalling the evil memories of the war, in denouncing "scallywags" and "carpet-baggers," and in demanding a "white man's government." The reactionary Bourbons have elected their ticket, it is true; but their success endangers the whole future of the State, in the destruction of the public schools, the blight of its credit by repudiation, the revision of the Constitution in a manner hostile to the interests of the freedmen and repugnant to the principles of northern and foreign immigrants, and a consequent division of the commonwealth. There are some triumphs which are worse to the victors than defeats; and this, in the end, will be found one of them.

We gave, the other day, some statistics concerning the increased movement of flour and grain at the port of Buffalo during the season just closed. From figures which have just come to hand we observe a similar increase at other lake ports. The aggregate receipts at the ports of Chicago, Milwaukee, Toledo, Detroit, Cleveland and Duluth, from January 1 to November 29, inclusive, this year, were 4,458,461 barrels of flour and 138,530,299 bushels of grain, and during the same time last year the receipts of flour were 3,311,647 barrels and of grain 119,880,096 bushels. The aggregate shipments during the same time were 5,075,173 barrels of flour and 128,728,184 bushels of grain this year, against 3,396,183 barrels of flour and 116,187,877 bushels of grain last year—showing a percentage of increase amounting to nearly eleven per cent. over the former period. With the steady enlargement of our Western cereal crop territory this extension will also doubtless continue from year to year.

The greater the moral triumph of a man or a nation, the greater the corresponding moral obligation. We have Geneva behind us, Sumter in the rowdy years are again clamoring for instant war against Spain, without any reference to the prospects of a pacific solution of the points of issue between the two countries. This spirit is simply damnable; and it is sincerely to be hoped that, whatever may be the final outcome of the matter, it may at least result in putting an end to all disgraceful filibustering expeditions from the United States. So long as they are tolerated, we are subject to the reproach either of being so weak as to be unable to enforce our own laws, or want of faith to friendly governments. It has given us a bad name among the nations, and it is high time to teach the uneasy adventurers who think to elude punishment by embroiling us in unnecessary war, that their violations of our own laws will not be tolerated, and that they will not be protected when they break the laws of other countries.

A "National Equal Rights" Convention of our colored fellow-citizens, will assemble in Washington to-day. It is understood that this body will be composed of those who claim the freest and fullest equality in all things, without regard to race, color or anything else, and that the design is to present a memorial to Congress demanding still further legislation in this direction, under the powers alleged to have been conferred upon Congress by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the Constitution. We have but little sympathy with race conventions. Colored Republicans should be recognized, as white Republicans should, for their personal worth and fidelity to the party. They should be recompensed according to their services, not according to the hue of their cuticle. There is no reason why a white man should be elevated above a colored man, if he is inferior in integrity or ability, as there is no reason why an inferior colored man should be preferred to a superior white man. The sooner both races at the South learn the truth that merit alone should prevail, the better it will be. With regard to this particular convention, we consider it unwise and impolitic. The Republican Administration, on the 5th and 6th days of June, 1872, in National Convention, in Philadelphia, pledged itself to pass a strong civil rights bill covering all the rights of the colored race. Moreover, the present Congress is pledged, and was elected upon the pledge and platform made at Philadelphia; while President Grant, in his inaugural, and still more recently in his Message, recommended its passage in strong and unmistakable language. Should Congress refuse to pass a civil rights bill, then such a convention might perhaps become advisable. It seems quite supererogatory however, to call such a meeting for the mere purpose of urging Congress to do what it is already pledged to perform.

DARK AND BLOODY GROUND.

Fifteen years ago the State of Kentucky was perhaps the one Southern State in which intelligent northern men would have declared impossible such outrages against humanity and decency as have been ordinary occurrences there for several years. Kentuckians were admitted to have serious faults of character, but even their faults were believed to lean so far to the side of virtue as to be inconsistent with the acts of baseness to which we allude. Passionate and capable of the bitterest resentments, they were yet supposed to be honorable and high-minded, and therefore fully imbued with the sentiments to which weakness and helplessness seldom appeal in vain. And these chivalrous sentiments were supposed to be so generally prevalent that even the most ignoble ruffians and cowardly miscreants would be at least for the most part, compelled to respect them in act, if not in thought. These agreeable prepossessions, we need hardly say, were long ago proved to be mere illusions, prejudices utterly void of foundation in fact. Of course, there are many honorable men in Kentucky, but in proportion to the entire population they are so few and so unevenly distributed as to control any controlling influence upon public sentiment, at least in some sections of the State.

Volumes might be filled with familiar illustrations of this statement, furnished by Kentucky chronicles of the last dozen years. The latest illustration seems worthy of particular mention. In the night of the 26th of July, a colored man named Lewis Wilson, living near Lockport, was murdered and his house burnt by a band of Ku-Klux. A neighbor of Wilson, Mr. Russell, whose own life had been often threatened in consequence of his inference with the Ku-Klux, succeeded, with the aid of two friends, in arresting one John O'Nan, a ringleader in the outrage, and in conveying him to Louisville, whence he was sent to the county seat of Owens county for trial by the Circuit Court. A few days ago the trial took place, and O'Nan was acquitted. Throughout the trial the Judge, P. A. Major, displayed the greatest sympathy for the Ku-Klux and rejected the testimony of the only witnesses who were present at the outrage, while many Ku-Klux whose testimony was admitted without hesitation, swore that the witnesses were unworthy of belief. The Judge builds gave the jury such instructions as forced them to acquit the accused. About a hundred Ku-Klux, present in Court, and armed with pistols openly declared that if O'Nan should be found guilty, and that as they rule they would not allow his punishment. When the verdict of acquittal had been rendered, they made loud demonstrations of their approval, and generally disappeared with their comrade.

To have his guilt so openly, O'Nan had made a full confession of his guilt in the presence of a number of persons assembled in the jail at Owensboro, one of these persons being the prosecuting attorney of the county and another a Judge. The reason for the confession given by O'Nan was that his guilt could be easily proven, and that by pleading guilty he hoped to mitigate his sentence. In this view his friends seem at first to have concurred, but they afterwards changed their minds, and advised him to deny everything, as they were prepared to keep him from harm.

The effect of the trial has been to show that the Ku-Klux have no reason to fear punishment either in Owen county or in the county of Henry. In virtue of the mere vote they are able to cast they are able to overawe or at any rate to control the courts, and votes are not the only instruments of persuasion they have at command. In presence of this state of affairs the Governor of the great State of Kentucky professes himself destitute of either right or power to interfere; a fact which seems completely to justify the remarks made above touching Kentucky and its people. Concerning the substantial accuracy of the foregoing statement of O'Nan's trial, there is unhappily no room for doubt.

Checks Upon City Officers.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The great defalcation in city bonds has put the people to inquire how it could happen and who is to blame. Touched with the same curiosity, I have been led to look into the City Code, to see what checks upon officers of the city are provided by law, and to ascertain whether the fault is in the laws or the officers. I have thought that the result of my investigations might be interesting, and enable each one to determine for himself who is to blame.

The principal sources of revenue to the city are taxes, water rents, wharves, markets, Mayor's office, weigh-scales, gauging, bonds, &c.

It is the duty of the City Treasurer to receive, safely keep and pay out all money's accruing to the city. (City Code, p. 39, sec. 32) I propose to follow the money into the City Treasury and out again, as it is provided by law.

It is the duty of the City Assessor to make an assessment of all taxes, general and special, and before the 1st of June in each year, return to the City Treasurer a perfect list for each ward, in alphabetical order, and at the same time to report to the Controller the aggregate amount of all such taxes. (City Code, p. 297, sec. 1 and 2.)

The same duty as to water rents is imposed upon the Assessor of Water Rents. (Code, p. 311, sec. 1.)

The following officers make monthly reports to the Controller: Mayor (code, p. 112, sec. 1); Gauger (code, p. 115, sec. 7); Weighmasters (code, p. 317, sec. 4; 319, sec. 13); and, without enumerating the minor officers, I may say that all are required to make similar reports.

The Wharfmasters are required to keep accounts and pay into the City Treasury monthly (code, p. 320, sec. 2); and the Superintendent of Markets weekly (code, p. 258, sec. 11). These officers report to their respective committees, and the committees to Councils monthly.

I think it will be found that there is not a single officer authorized to receive money for the city, who is not required to make stated reports to the Controller; and lest any should have been overlooked, he is authorized to call upon any officer at any time for an account (code, p. 289, sec. 6).

As to bonds issued by the city, it will be found that there is no case in which it is not provided that the fund for each issue of bonds shall be kept separate and apart from other funds of the city, and that accurate accounts shall be kept of the bonds issued, the proceeds of sales, payments on account of the same, &c., as in case of water bonds. (Code, p. 202, sec. 3; 339, sec. 4.)

The object of all these provisions is that the Controller may know what moneys the Treasurer should receive, and thus hold him to a strict account.

It is made the duty of the Finance and Water Committees, on or before the 1st day of December in each year, to report to the Controller all exonerations or abatements made by them; and he is authorized to credit the amount on the Treasurer's account. (Code, p. 508, sec. 9).

There would, therefore, be no difficulty in ascertaining the amount for which the Treasurer would be chargeable; it would simply be the amount in the various reports, less the abatements. Those amounts he is bound to collect or otherwise account for.

As to moneys received for street improvements, there is a somewhat different system. The accounts are made up by the City Engineer, returned to the City Treasurer, received by him and paid over to the contractors; each account thus checks itself, and does not go into the city accounts proper. When he hands claims to the City Attorney, they are made in the same shape, and each account checks itself on the Treasurer's book.

But, as we have found by sad experience, it does not do to wait until the end of the year to see how we stand, as it takes but a few weeks to get away with a large amount of money, provided you have active, energetic young men to handle it. Let us see what provision there is for watching the money affairs as they progress.

It is made the duty of the Treasurer to enter, in a book kept for that purpose, duplicate receipts for money paid, specifying the date, sum, by whom paid, and on what account, to be countersigned by the person paying the money (code, p. 302, sec. 5), and to report *daily* to the Controller the items of receipts and payments, specifying the sources from which they are derived, the accounts for which they are paid, and the warrants on which payments were made (code, p. 302, sec. 6). He is to keep books showing in an intelligible manner each item of charge and discharge, which shall be at all times open to inspection by the Controller or any member of Councils, (code, p. 302, sec. 4.) This would enable the Controller, if he kept proper accounts, to know each day not only the condition of each appropriation, but the exact condition of the Treasurer's accounts. But it is also made the duty of the Finance Committee to verify the Treasurer's account at least once every month, and in case of default to take action against him. (Code, p. 198, sec. 1; p. 302, sec. 5.)

As to payment of money out of the Treasury, it can only be done on warrant of the Mayor, certified by the Controller. (Code, p. 39, sec. 32; 302, sec. 2.) It is the duty of the Controller to examine all bills, claims and demands against the city, and certify warrants for such as he may find to be just. (Code, p. 39, sec. 31.) No claim shall be certified which is not properly chargeable to some regular appropriation (Code, p. 240, sec. 7), and then only on certificate of a majority of the committee having charge of the same (Code, p. 237, sec. 2); and even when so certified to him, he must require that each claim be separately proated, and inquire if any officer or agent of the city is directly or indirectly interested therein. (Code, p. 240, sec. 7.) It seems that every possible guard is thrown around the disbursement of the money after it gets into the Treasury. The provisions in reference to keeping accounts appear to be equally clear. All the officers who receive money are required to keep accurate accounts, as will appear by reference to the provisions above referred to in reference to reports and payments to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer is required to keep accurate accounts (Code, page 39, section 32; page 302, section 4).

The Controller is required to keep similar accounts (Code, page 39, section 31), by double entry, showing distinctly and separately all the estate and property, receipts and expenditures; all debts due or owing, &c.; also, the amount raised from each source of revenue, and the amount of expenditures classified by reference to the object thereof, and all appropriations made by Councils, and the sums expended under them respectively. (Code, page 220, section 4.)

Now, it seems to me that we have here all possible guards. When a business extends beyond the power of one man to supervise each transaction in person, it is, perhaps, impossible to prevent all frauds; but it should be so conducted as to secure the prompt discovery of any misappropriation. In this bond case, for instance, if the Controller had kept a proper account, it would have shown the bonds issued; if the Treasurer had made his daily report, it would have shown the cash received on account of bonds sold, and the fact that there were over $500,000 of bonds unaccounted for, and it would have been their duty to look them up; and if the Finance Committee had done their duty, they would have discovered this deficit some months before it was forced upon them.

I do not propose to lay the blame on any one, but hope that all our officials will examine the Code and do each his own duty hereafter.

Citizen.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It is estimated that Louisville consumes a hundred thousand glasses of whisky and beer a day. Some of its papers show signs of the resultant delirium tremens.

The annual National Convention of Breeders of Short Horn Cattle was held at Cincinnati last week. Archbishop Purcell's bull against Halsted was not introduced.

The singular ecclesiastical fact should not be overlooked, that the "Reformed Episcopal Church" has only one Cummins and no incumms at all.

The New Hampshire Historical Society has received the interesting and appropriate gift of a hornet's nest twelve feet in circumference, and now wants to trade it off for a woman's rights convent on.

A Christmas recipe for obtaining immortality. Write your name with kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of the people you come in contact with day by day, and you will never be forgotten.

The Georgia papers are growling about hard times, and yet we notice that a circus at Atlanta took in $3,500 at one performance, recently. False pretense, somewhere.

If war should come to us in the line of honor and wisdom, we must stand to it like a nation of men. But war is the most horrible of facts, and in the Cuban case the facts are not yet all before us as evidence. Let us be sure, and we shall be all the bolder in the last resort.

"Patience wanted a nightingale; Patience waited, and the egg sang." Things go by turns, and when we understand their natural sequence, it is rare philosophy to endure what we cannot help, and to wait until the "egg sings."

It is not generally known that a simple and efficient means for protecting dwellings against lightning is to connect all the fireplaces, iron bedsteads and bell-wires by means of one wire to the iron rain-water pipe, polishing the surface of this at the junction, and contact being also secured by soldering. A house thus protected may be struck, but it would scarcely be possible that it should be seriously injured.

Potatoes are so scarce in Illinois that one county alone will have to import at least $100,000 worth this winter.

Boston is elevating its Athenian nostrils at the pork-packing establishments, and insists that the æsthetic sense of the immaculate town will only be appeased by the removal of these obnoxious institutions.

James F. Joy, the Michigan railroad king, has got a big railroad bridge across the Detroit river in his brain. The capital represented by the railroads centering at Detroit amounts to $100,000,000, he says, and the Detroit river now without a bridge is simply a nuisance.

A New York grand jury is considering the question of indicting the deputy sheriffs and court officers, who are alleged for a consideration to have indorsed on a number of summonses as "not found" the persons summoned to appear as jurors.

The shaft that the Saratoga monumental association propose to raise on the spot where Burgoyne surrendered in 1777, will be eighty feet square at the base and ten feet at the summit, and 250 feet high, and will cost $300,000.

Castelar has three rebellions on hand already—those of the Carlists, Cartagenists and Volunteers in Cuba—and another one under Serrano in behalf of the Prince Asturias, the son of Bourbon Isabella, is threatened.

The hard times also have their effects upon the Indians. One horse will now purchase two Apache squaws, and the owner of the females will throw in a dog or two rather than lose the bargain.

In Maine it is polite to speak of the *delirium tremens* as 'apple-jactitation," lest a breach of the liquor laws might be implied.

Under the new coin system of the German Empire, whereby silver is no longer legal-tender, except for very small amounts, 975,146,170 marks have been coined up to November 1st.

An eccentric will wherein the testator requested that his body might be consumed in a gas retort, and thus made to contribute to the enlightenment instead of the poisoning of the world, has revived the long forgotten subject of cremation.

The advance in the price of the porcine product in Cincinnati to five dollars per hundred pounds, is good evidence that the great West has pretty thoroughly repaired her end of the financial fabric.

The great clock of the Houses of Parliament, London, has been misbehaving itself. It lost nearly one second last month, and consequently has been stopped for cleaning. The average variation of this clock does not amount to a quarter of a second in the year.

It has been discovered at Bloomington, Ill., that the air of a coal mine is a cure and preventive of whooping-cough, and the children of the miners, when attacked with that complaint, are taken down into the shaft, and in a short time are entirely recovered.

Do you know that if you put a little blood (from any animal) on each of your orchard trees, the rabbits will not trouble them?

The distillers of fine whisky in Kentucky desire an extension of the bonding period from the present limit of one year to a two years' limit. They urge this on the ground that the panic has interfered with their ability to pay their taxes.

A society has been organized in Iowa to encourage fish culture in the rivers of that State.

The rise in the price of quicksilver during the past year has stimulated work on the California mines of that metal. The Rattlesnake is supposed to be the richest quicksilver mine in the world. California will probably soon exceed Austria in the production of quicksilver.

There are large numbers of cattle in Kansas, Colorado and Texas which, but for the untoward condition of markets and money, would have gone east of the Missouri, and the prospect seems to be that the cattle trade of 1874 will be immense.

The New York picture market is reported to be exceedingly dull this winter. Foreign paintings crowd the market, and native artists complain of a lack of appreciation.

A strong point in General Grant's administration, has been the appointment to prominent positions of men comparatively unknown. Such men were Cresswell, Belknap, Robeson, and Williams, yet which of them can be pointed out as incapable or inefficient?

"Chinese cheap labor" is a failure on Louisiana sugar estates. The Southern papers complain that it costs about $300 each to get the Celestials there, and that they usually quit work after about the third month, and take to stealing for a livelihood.

The country of the Modocs is fast filling up with herds of lowing kine and bleating sheep, which graze and grow fat near the famous lava beds.

Colorado proposes to construct an irrigation canal from Platte river canon to the eastern border of the Territory. The distance is 250 miles, and a sufficient volume of water will be carried through the canal to irrigate a vast expanse of now arid waste.

The steady increase in the number of patents issued at Washington, year after year, shows the inventive spirit which is inherent in the breast of every genuine Yankee. From 1856 to the present time, no less than 40,000 patents have been granted by the United States.

Duluth has a skating rink. It is 420 by 190 miles, and has an area of 32,000 square miles, and is called Lake Superior.

A cattle famine is threatened in California. The animals are already very lean, the stock is large, prices about half what they were last year at this time, pasturage very poor, and the rains will soon set in. Many herds have been driven to Nevada.

Washington, which, down to 1870, was the shabbiest of National Capitals, is now acknowledged by all who have visited it during the past six months, to be one of the most beautiful of American cities.

The Washington *Star* announces that a movement is on foot to oust Senator Patterson, of South Carolina.

The report of the Department of Agriculture for November and December shows that the average of the tobacco crop, in comparison with last year, is ninety-four.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Further Opinions of the Press.

[From the York Republican.]

An immense amount of nonsense and balderdash has been written, spoken and published about the powers of a Constitutional Convention, which are claimed to be universal, complete, absolute,

"As broad and general as the casing air."

This was the theory on which the Convention acted. They claimed that the absolute sovereignty of the people was delegated to them.

Now, it is an important matter to determine what were the power and authority committed to the body, whose work is before the people for their adoption or rejection.

Absolute sovereignty, of course, resides originally in the whole body of the people. The people have voluntarily limited the exercise of that power by the adoption of successive written Constitutions. The Constitution of 1838 is the last limitation imposed by the people on the exercise of their own sovereign powers. Its adoption was itself an act of sovereign power. It is still in force and authority, and will continue so to be until it is abrogated by the people. It is true that that Constitution asserts the right of the people, at any time, to "alter, reform, or abolish their government." That right is not denied by any one. It is the right of revolution, always residing in the whole body of any people. But the calling of a convention to "amend the existing Constitution" is not an exercise of that revolutionary right. It is merely the exercise of another right *reserved in the existing, and previous Constitution*, to amend it in a constitutional way, at pleasure.

A Convention, called by the people for any purpose, is subject, in every respect, to the Constitution by which it was established. Such a Convention has no power to abrogate the existing Constitution or to disobey its least important provision. It is too sacred for their profane touch. It can only be changed or abrogated by the people; in a Constitutional way, by voting in favor of amendments Constitutionally submitted; or in a way beyond and outside of the Constitution by a revolution.

This Convention possessed only the power delegated to them by the people. To ascertain those powers, it is necessary to inquire, "What did the people vote for?" A reference to the Act of Assembly of June 2nd, 1871, is all that is required. That provides "that the question of calling a Convention to amend *the Constitution* of this Commonwealth shall be submitted to a vote of the people at the next general election." By a very large majority the people voted for a Convention." Here we have the precise limit of their power, always bearing in mind the restraining force of the existing Constitution, requiring *every amendment to be submitted to a separate vote.*

No subsequent legislation could enlarge or restrain those powers granted by the sovereign people of the State. No power was ever legally conferred to make an entire new Constitution. No right was granted to determine the method of its submission. No control was vested in the Convention over the money of the State, or the officers of the State. No legislative power was conferred. No authority was given to set aside a single line of the statute law of the State. With the final vote in the Convention on the amendments to be submitted, the legal powers of the Convention ceased, their functions ended.

The Convention has endeavored to hold up the Legislature to the scorn of the people. We venture to say the whole history of legislation in Pennsylvania, since the adoption of the Constitution of 1838, will fail to show a single instance of its violation by the legislative body that will at all parallel many of which this Convention was guilty.

They acted their powers in proposing an entire new Constitution. They violated the existing Constitution in the method they adopted of submitting the new one.

They arrogated to themselves unconstitutional power in prescribing a mode of holding the election in Philadelphia, and in appointing officers to conduct it; in requiring returns of the election to be made to the Convention, and in assembling to count the vote. They were guilty of a gross breach of faith and contract with the people in voting themselves $2,500 salary, when they were elected with the understanding that they should receive only $1,000.

And there is reason to believe that they contemplate still further outrages.

The *Legal Gazette*, a usually staid and sensible journal published in Philadelphia, edited by John H. Campbell, Esq., a member of the Convention, contained, in its last issue, a threat that if the courts of Philadelphia should venture to hold the action of the Convention in regard to the constitutional election in that city void, *the Convention would reassemble and* ANOLISH THE COURTS MAKING SUCH A DECISION, AND TURN THE JUDGES OUT OF OFFICE.

The whole action of the Convention shows their determination to force the new Constitution on the people, however unwilling.

One of the delegates from this county to the Convention, in a recent speech before the Teachers' Institute, ventured on the assertion that it lay in the power of the Convention to impose this new Constitution on the people without submitting it to a vote. Imagine the shout of scorn, derision and contempt that would have gone up from all this broad Commonwealth, had such an insane project been attempted. And yet the Convention are actually engaged in an attempt to secure the same result by *submitting the Constitution* as a whole, and by fixing the day of election at so early a period that it is utterly impossible for the people to become acquainted with it. The Convention well knew that if time were given to fully discuss the instrument, and to point out its many defects, it would be defeated by an immense majority, its many odious provisions completely swamping the few good features in it.

The method of submission and the time of holding the election together constitute a scheme of the Convention TO DEFEAT THE POPULAR WILL.

[From the Lancaster Examiner.]

The great hope of the adoption of the new Constitution entertained by those favoring it, is founded on the belief that the people, not having time to read andunderstand it, will swallow it blindly. This was probably the reason why so short a time was allowed for examination. How many men who intend to vote on next Tuesday a week have carefully collated this Constitution with the old and have come to the belief, on just ground, that this is the better, and that therefore they will vote for it? How many men have taken pains even to read this instrument with the care with which they would read a deed or will presented for their signature, a deed or will affecting only to their own property? They would demand sufficient time to examine in all its details, and if that was not allowed they would refuse to sign it.

Yet here is an instrument affecting every right, the right of voting, the manner of holding property, the organization of the Courts of Justice, the liability of taxation, the support of the poor, the appropriations to charities, an instrument not of temporary but of permanent nature, affecting generations yet unborn, laid before the people and they are told to adopt it without time for consideration. We have brought to the attention of the people several of the subjects in which we think this instrument, if adopted, will work evil and for so doing we have been called "infamous," but no argument has been brought to show that we are wrong. The one instance where this was attempted was a signal failure, as we showed. The only plea for this berate, the only plea for this adoption, is that there are some evils which would be cured by this instrument, nothing is said of the evils which would be caused by it. These evils are hidden, they take time to discover, and this time has not been allowed.

Why this extreme haste? Why this denial of time? The Commonwealth has existed and has prospered for thirty-five years under the old Constitution. Would the thirty-sixth year under this well tried and well understood organic law have been so fatal to its existence and prosperity that an extra election had to be held when in three short months the regular spring elections would have carried a general attendance at the polls? We cannot see it, and we again appeal to the people to insist on this time, by sending this instrument back, so that ample opportunity may be given for examination, reflection and consideration.

Foreign Steamships.

[From the New York Commercial Advertiser.]

The terrible disaster that has overtaken the Ville Du Havre brings up the question (of great importance to those who go to sea in ships) as to the equipment of ocean-going steamers for the preservation of life in case of disaster. We cannot escape the conclusion, the universal howl that would have arisen had this calamity occurred on an American ship. It is a well known fact to every practical man that there is not a steamer sailing from the port of New York, under the flag of any foreign government, that would be allowed to carry a passenger under the American steamboat law. We do not claim that it is possible to prevent the loss of life on ships at sea, but we do claim that the chances are very much diminished on American steamers. Take for instance the "American Line," running from Philadelphia; they have ten life boats on the upper deck, so arranged as to diminish, to a very great degree, the danger of launching them. They have ten life-rafts lying on the upper deck, easily handled, and hand-less liable to accidents than boats. These, in addition to other appliances, such as cork jackets, make these ships with a properly disciplined crew, as safe as it is possible to make sea going steamers. While the English government claim jurisdiction over these vessels, and do not allow them to take a passenger from their ports until they have complied with every requirement of the Board of Trade, our Government have no control over their vessels, and they leave this port without boats, with broken wheels, or in any other condition they see fit. Had the Ville Du Havre been equipped as the American steamers are, we candidly believe many more valuable lives would have been saved, and although to the public, especially those who travel on steamers, pay very little attention to the means they may have for saving the lives of passengers, we hope that Congress will, during its present session, take some steps to make foreign steamers sailing from American ports, subject to our authorities, in a degree equal to the jurisdiction foreign States claim over ours.

The South American Republics seem to have imbibed something of the spirit of enterprise pertaining to railway construction, similar to that which has been so characteristic of the United States the last few years. Peru, Chili, the Argentine Confederacy and Brazil, are especially alive to the importance of promoting the means of communication with the interior.

The Texas cattle drover has his tricks, and one of them is to keep his herds sufficiently well placed as to avoid taxes. It is a common practice to drive large herds into different portions of Wyoming, grazing them two or three months on the best ranges, and then driving them off into Utah and Montana for market.

IRON TRADE IN READING.

Work at the Furnaces and the Stock on Hand—Probabilities for the Opening of the New Year—A Review of the General Condition of Affairs Throughout the Country.

[From the Reading Eagle, December 3.]

The present condition of the iron trade in this section is not brisk, but on the contrary, it is at a point where operators have little choice, either to retain their stock on the yards or sell. During the past few weeks there has been a noticeable increase in the stock on hand, showing that, with the usual production, there has been a falling off in sales. And when iron accumulates, when the prices are down to the bottom figures, it does not show the best exhibit. The furnaces in Berks county, however, are all running with the exception of two or three, and it may be that after the first of the year these again will start afresh, so that the full complement of our iron industries will be in full operation. The outlook in the iron market is full of promise, although no great activity can reasonably be expected during the winter. So far as can be learned there are no stocks except in makers' hands, and when consumers begin to buy they must buy largely.

A leading producer has said that in seasons of stringency and distrust, like that through which we are now passing, there must, of necessity, be a more or less general suspension of work upon large enterprises of all kinds, a diminished demand for machinery and tools, and an economy in the consumption of iron wares of all kinds; but we can neither do without iron nor substitute anything for it, and when activity is resumed throughout the country the first and most imperative demand will be for iron, crude and manufactured. In this country there is now a capacity for making about 3,000,000 tons of pig per annum, including the run of the new furnaces built or completed this year; and since we can no longer draw to any extent upon the British market, which is taxed to supply the continental and other demands, that amount should not exceed the annual requirements.

On Monday and Tuesday of the present week the large rolling mill of the Reading Railroad Company, in this city, stopped for the purpose of taking an inventory of their stock on hand, but the mill is now in full operation again making rails. It is expected that a vast amount of this kind of iron will be in demand during the coming months. The Reading Company are supplying its own rails, but other companies are not so situated. A recent writer has said that with the country's present mileage, it is estimated that 200,000 tons of new and re-rolled rails will be required for renewals alone during 1874, and this amount is within less than 100,000 tons of the present maximum capacity of the rail mills. To this must be added the amount needed for the extensions, sidings, &c., for new railroads which are far advanced to completion and for additional tracks which some of the trunk lines already find necessary for the separate accommodation of freight and passenger traffic. It must be remembered, moreover, that the market is now almost wholly relieved of foreign rails. The importations have practically ceased, and at present prices on the other side, which are likely to be maintained, they cannot be sent here profitably in competition with the American product.

This leaves the field pretty much to our own iron masters, and the probabilities are that the demand next year will be large enough to keep them well employed, even though we should build less than a quarter of the mileage that was completed in 1872. In that year about one-third of our total production of iron went into railroads, and, with foreign supplies practically cut off, there seems to be no good reason for supposing that we shall not want as great a proportion for railroad consumption in 1874.

PERSONAL.

Vice President Wilson has decided to postpone his departing for the orange groves of Florida until it can be determined who is to be President *pro tempore* of the Senate.

Mark Twain is nothing if not honest. On being surprised by a toast at a dinner party in London, recently, he pulled out a large roll of manuscript and proceeded to reply.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Yeoman, of San Francisco, wants $50,000 from another man for breach of promise.

Might not some official notice appropriately be taken of the gallant conduct of the commander of the British man-of-war "Niobe," as exhibited in his heroic effort to cause the Santiago authorities not only to delay the execution of the crew of the "Virginius," but to procure access to them of the United States Consul. But for those efforts it is more than probable the whole party would have been slaughtered. Her commander deserves not only the gratitude of Americans, but of every friend of humanity, irrespective of nationality.

The Marblehead men of the Judge Story and Elbridge Gerry stamp are not all dead. During the late campaign in Massachusetts, a Marblehead inspector thus replied to the taunt of a would-be governor, that the power which appointed could deprive him of office: "General, my salary has amounted to just —— dollars, and (slapping down his wallet upon the table) you are *dumbd* welcome to take it out of that, but *dumbd* if you can have my vote for Governor of Massachusetts."

Chief Justice Williams, we learn from the Springfield *Republican*, has a good wife, "one of those excellent Western women who are equally good at pudding and politics."

A certain Mrs. Anna Wilkes has made the remarkable discovery that the Uz of the Chaldeas, whence Abraham removed to Palestine, was Ireland. The patriarch must certainly have been a better navigator than most of the men of his generation if he succeeded in transporting all his camels and herds to the mainland, and his journey across the whole of Europe and part of Asia, must have been tiresome to say the least.

Blanton Duncan and Chambord, according to flashing news, are both in Switzerland. The attraction of cohesion between Bourbon atoms is the probable cause of it.

The London *Bookseller* records the fact that what it naively terms "the nuisance of street newsboys" was introduced into London in 1842 by an American, Mr. Isaac C. Pray, who started a cheap newspaper (the *Evening Star*) in that year.

The Boston *Journal* has a Coffin on its staff, and the *Globe* a Screw on its. They should be joined.

A movement is on foot to establish a department in the New York Stock Exchange for dealings in miscellaneous railroad and other bonds not on the regular or free lists.

The Human Kitchen and Its Dumb Waiters. The body is supplied with ailment by vessels which connect the stomach and its auxiliaries with the venous system, and, so to speak, perform the office of dumb waiters in a restaurant. In other words, these media of communication between the animal kitchen and its dependants supply to each member and organ, near or remote, the quantity and kind of sustenance required to keep it going. When the stomach is derelict in its duty, or the dumb waiters inert or obstructed, it is the peculiar province of Hostetter's Celebrated Stomach Bitters to strengthen and regulate them. Hence its marvellous cures of chronic indigestion, and the emaciation, debility and languor which are generally its concomitants. It is moreover, a powerful alterative and corrective, and in the majority with which it checks irregularities of the liver and bowels, and braces and invigorates the nervous system, is a marvel, not only to the general public, but to professional men.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.

ASSETS JANUARY 1, 1873....$778,251 56.

Chartered in 1862.

Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid in June and December, from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 8 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of Six Per Cent. on deposits from the 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually in January and July. Books of By-Laws, &c., furnished at the office.

BOARD OF MANAGERS:

GEO. A. BERRY, President.
JOHN SCOTT, JAS. FARR, Jr., Vice Presidents.
D. E. McKINLEY, Secretary and Treasurer.
A. Bradley, A. L. Bailey, S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Rahm, G. Follansbee, Joshua Rhodes, S. H. Hartman, Robert G. Hamerta, Christopher Zug, John B. Bailey, Solicitor.

GIFT CONCERT.

Postponement!

FOURTH

GIFT CONCERT

OF

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF KENTUCKY,

A Card to the Public.

The Trustees of the Public Library of Kentucky and the managers of the Gift Concert announce the postponement of the Fourth Gift Concert until TUESDAY, the 31st of March next.

The public will certainly understand the causes which have made this postponement necessary.

The financial panic, which has for the last two months paralyzed the business of every section of this country and of Europe, has prevented thousands from investing in tickets. The epidemics pervading almost the entire South have cut off a large and available market, and, too, the public, judging from the effects of these causes, have expected a postponement and have failed to invest without a more positive assurance of the drawing taking place on a fixed day.

All interested desire a full drawing, but for the reasons just stated this could not be had on the 3d of December, but the short postponement now announced will secure it.

The management have met, with unprecedented success. The sales of tickets, the proceeds of which have already been received, amount to OVER A MILLION DOLLARS, with a number of agencies in this country yet to hear from, and all in Europe.

Thus a drawing (scaling the gifts one-half) could be had now, but the management deem it best to have a postponement and a *full drawing.*

This postponement *covers the sale of all the tickets* and A FULL DRAWING. That this determination will meet with the approbation of nearly every one interested is made apparent by the very numerous letters received from every section of this country and the Canadas asking for a postponement.

This action of the management will work no detriment to any, but will be for the good of all. By it the fortunate ticket-holders will receive their gifts in *full*, while it will not effect those who do not draw gifts.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 8, 1873.

The improving condition of the general money market is markably shown in the report of the condition of the New York Associated Banks, published this morning. The statement is made up of rising averages, so that the banks hold at present more of deposits and legal tenders than the amount reported as the average of last week.

It is impossible to give a more convincing proof of the strength of our financial system than is offered in these figures. The banks of New York suffered a drain of $60,000,000, and reduced their deposits from $209,000,000 to $145,000,000; to do this they paid out thirty millions of currency and contracted their loans about the same amount to meet the drain upon their resources, and to check public excitement and fear the banks united their legal tender in one common fund, and issued loan-certificates so that the strong banks could help those which were weak. Of these certificates, twenty-six millions were issued, one-half of them to four banks, and the rest to about eight others. Thus there were but a dozen banks that needed help, and the other forty-eight banks were strong enough not only to bear the prodigious strain of the financial tornado themselves, but also to help their weaker neighbors.

The crisis has ended in a rapid return of currency to New York, in consequence of which the notes of National Banks that four weeks ago were quoted as high as five per cent, premium are selling to day in large amounts at 1-16 to ¼ discount.

At home there is some complaint among the merchants that collections come in slowly. Yet there is considerable exaggeration in this, and is often used as an excuse by those who do not find it convenient to pay their maturing paper. The banks report that the maturing obligations so far this month have been much more promptly than they had anticipated.

The general impression is that, after the January settlements are successfully made, the money markets will be easier. The country banks and our city savings banks have been locking up a good deal of money. These hidden hoards are coming of late into circulation and throughout the whole country the same movement has been going on as the dread of approaching evil relaxes its hold on the currency. The supply of actual bank notes is thus increasing and as the recent derangement of monetary affairs has made business men cautious and averse to expansion there is less demand for loans on new accounts. Thus the market gets an accession of strength both by an increase of the supply of loanable capital and by a decrease in the demand for it and.

The following, which we take from the *Mendeville Republican*, is from one of the oldest bank cashiers in the State. His suggestions, especially in regard to returns by State and private banks, are worthy of the consideration of the Legislature:

The prevailing monetary troubles of the country have given rise to a vast number of suggestions and plans for the present relief and future prevention of the undoubted crisis we are now suffering. Nearly every man has a plan of his own, from the member of Congress to the editor of every newspaper in the land. If there is anything in the saying that "in a multitude of counsels there is wisdom," we shall surely soon be relieved of difficulties.

Your paper of yesterday contained an article from the Philadelphia *Ledger*, complaining of the reticence of bank, railroad and other managers, in not giving more full information in regard to their condition and upon matters bearing on the welfare and prosperity of the country. The editor says, "the country desires to know something of the strength of the banks," "but the information is practically denied." Now, I do not think we have a fair and honest exhibit of the condition of our banking institutions and other corporations can we expect anything like a return of public confidence."

The *Ledger* should know that its complaint is not well founded, so far at least as the National Banks are concerned. These institutions are required at least five times in every year, to make a several exhibit of their assets and liabilities, and to publish the same in a newspaper for the information of the people. This has been faithfully done by the National Banks, and it is one of the many safe guards thrown around these institutions as wisdom has dictated to protect the people. It is an excellent feature of the National Banking law, and should be required of every bank in the State and Union. If this were done, a quarterly statement published of the condition of all the banks, private, as well as incorporated, it would have a most salutary effect upon the mushroom growth of these institutions which have multiplied so rapidly that we find in some villages bank or trust company at nearly every cross-roads in the Commonwealth.

The "*Ledger*" is correct in its idea "that open, frank statements," of all banks, would "invite more of public confidence," and "allay the fear, doubt and suspicion that broods in the community, and hangs like a pall over the business of this country. The Legislature might very properly take up this subject at its next session, and enact a law requiring every bank to publish, under oath of a sworn statement of its business, capital, etc., at least quarterly, and this alone would be a check upon how they have in charge, some idea of their management and condition. If this were done I am confident there would be a great falling off in the number of weak, irresponsible and failing banks with which the land is now cursed.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 8, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.
Gold	109½	109½	109½	109¾	109¾
Western Union Telegraph	74	74	74	73¾	73¾
Quicksilver	29	29	29	29	29
Pacific Mail	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Adams Express	57¾	58	58	58	58
Wells-Farg Express	74	74	74	74	74
American Express	58½	58½	58½		
United States Express	64	64	64	64	64
New York Central	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾	94¾
Erie	26	26	26	26	26
Michigan Central	90	90½	90½	90½	90½
Michigan Southern	76½	76½	76½	76½	76½
Illinois Central	97	97	97	97	97
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	83½	83½	84½	83½	83½
Chicago & Northwestern	65¾	65¾	65¾	65¾	65¾
Do preferred	76	76	76	76	76
Rock Island	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾
St. Paul	39¾	39¾	39¾	39¾	39¾
Do preferred	64	64	64	64	64
Wabash	52¾	52¾	52¾	52¾	52¾
Fort Wayne	78	78	78	78	78
Ohio and Mississippi	29¾	29¾	29¾	29¾	29¾
Union Pacific	28¾	29	29	28¾	29¾
Chicago and Alton	....	....	....	....	....
Boston, Hartf'd and Erie	....	....	....	....	....
Harlem	....	....	....	....	....

*Ex. div.

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even'g.
1881, coupons	117¾	117¾	117¾
5-20s, 1862	110¾	110¾	111
5-20s, 1864	113¾	113¾	113¾
5-20s, 1865	113	113	113¼
5-20s, new	116¾	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1867	116¾	116¾	116¾
5-20s, 1868	116½	117	....
10-40s	109¾	109¾	109¾
10-40s, coupons	110	110	110
Currency 6s	109½	110	110
New 5s	110	110	110½
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees, new	—	79¾	79¾
Tennessees, new	—	79	79
South Carolinas, July	—	10½	10½
Missouri 6s	—	92	92

—Robinson Bros., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna. R. R.	44¾
Penna. Scrip	53¾
United Co's N. J	116¾
Oil Creek	15
Lehigh Valley	58
A. V. R. R. 7-30s	83
Central Trans	49
Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis	63

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 8, 1873.

The receipts by river and rail the past twenty-four hours indicate the following as the supply of the leading commodities for this market:

Flour, bbls	1,685	Wheat, sacks	174
Apples, bbls	158	Corn, sacks	228
Butter, pkgs	1,000	Barley, sacks	387
Cheese, tcs	162	Oats, sacks	500
		Rye, sacks	210

As will be seen, the receipts of the principal articles were light for Monday, except those of flour, which indicate a large supply. The market ruled fair all day, which is taken as an evidence that trade will improve right straight along until after the holidays. In the Produce branch there is a very good feeling prevailing, and the market is abundantly supplied with all the seasonable articles. Flour has held its own, and with large receipts and a moderate demand, prices are yet unchanged. The receipts of recent months has fallen off during the past twenty-four hours, but the advance in our card rates noted in our last were fully realized. The grain market indicates a degree of activity, with demand equal for the supply, although prices are very firm. Shipments of merchandise to the interior continues satisfactory and the volume of trade is gradually swelling rapidly. One of the largest shipments of western produce, was made yesterday, the freight occupying 52 car loads and consigned from Chicago and other western points to Philadelphia for export to the principle cities of Europe.

The following will indicate the state of trade in detail in our several departments, together with the latest quotations for the leading commodities from store:

APPLES.—The receipts are still moderate, but fully up to the requirements of the market. With a good feeling, prices are well maintained. Regular sales were reported at from $1 50 to $2 50 per bbl for common to medium and at $3 50@4 00 per bbl for prime to choice.

ANIMAL.—The market continues quiet, with but little doing. The nominal rates are: Soda Ash, common, 3½@4c; Refined, 5c; Potash, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 6@6½c; Black Lead, 4@5c.

APPLE BUTTER.—In fair request, and prices remain unchanged. Sales at 6@7c per gallon.

ALES.—The market is firm, with a fair demand. The card prices are as follows: X $ ½ bbl; XX, $9; India ale $ ½ bbl; Burton ale, in gluestring, of 22 gals, $22 70@23 24; bbl, 41 gals, $12 25@24 bbls, 68 gals, $69 50@65; 4; in cases, bottles, $3 75; Wm. Youngers' India pale ale in cases of 3 doz bottles, $8 ½ doz; Robt. Youngs of sparkling ale $8 ½ doz; Guinness stouts, bottled by E & A. Burke, $3 ½ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 ½ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 75 ½ doz.

BRANDY.—The demand for the market is dull. Sales at $2@2 25 for fair to choice.

BORAX.—Reoined 26c ½ lb.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR.—The market continues quiet and prices are steady; sales at 4@4½c per lb.

BUTTER.—The receipts are light, and with an average demand prices are steady. Sales are made at 25@30c per lb for choice sale, and 15@20c for common, the inquiry for which is limited.

BANNER BAKING POWDER.—Market steady; sales per doz ¼ lb cans, $1.60; ½ lb do $3 00; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 lb cans, $26 00 per dozen.

BROOM CORN.—Market quiet with sales red and red topped 5½@6½; fair to good green 7½@8¾. Hurl 9½@10c per lb.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—The receipts have again fallen off, and the inquiry for the day, although an average, business was transacted. Prices at the advanced card rates are firm. Below are the latest quotations for sugar cured hams 13c; shoulders 9½c; plain 8½c; breakfast bacon 11½c; dried beef, S. C., 15½c; beef tongues $7 50 per dozen; rib sides 9c; short rib 9c; clear 10; mess pork $16 00 per bbl; hams sausage 16c; lard, refined, tierces, 9½c; half barrels sausage 16c; lard, refined, tierces, 9½c; half barrels 10c; buckets 10½c; in three 5 caddies 12c; in five 3 caddies 11½c; in three pound pails 12½c; in six 2 pails 13½c per lb.

CANNED OIL.—The market continues dull with prices tending downward. Sales at the following rates for cans holding 3 per gallon, and the usual advance for small lots:

CANNED GOODS.—Moderately active, but prices are steady. Tomatoes are cheaper now than they have been at any time this year. Peaches have also declined, while Wilson's corn is still holding its own. Tomatoes are being sold in a jobbing way at $2 25 and25 per doz for 3 lb cans.

CORN.—In good supply with sales at $1 30 per bbl.

CRANBERRIES.—The current rates are $10 to $13 per bbl; $5 50 to $6 per box.

CONCENTRATED LYE.—Dealers report sales at $7 50 per case of four dozen packages.

CATSUP.—The market is more limited and the feeling continues strong. It has been suggested by this connection that manufacturers should brand their catsup on the bottle and not use the brand New York Goshen, or other brand. This statement is made in justice to our city dealers. The market is fairly active. We note sales in small lots at 14@16c; in car load lots at 13½@14½c, and dairy at 11@12c. Young America 18c; New York Goshen 15½@16c; Sweitzer 16@18c.

CORN MEAL.—The supply continues to meet the demands of the market, with sales at $30 ℔ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ℔ cwt., from store.

CRACKERS.—Trade continues satisfactory. Prices for the following grades remain firm but unchanged. We quote: Lemon biscuit 11½c, ginger snaps 12½c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 7c; water 6½@12c ℔.

CIDER.—We have nothing new to report in regard to this article. Prices were as follows: Boosinbl's Phœnix $2 00@2 50; Louisville $2 25@2 50; Ross dale $4 00@4 50; white lime $2 00; calcined plaster $4 50; land plaster $3 00@3 50.

DRESSED HOGS.—Sales at 5½@6c ℔ ℔.

DRIED FRUIT.—The market is rather quiet, with regular sales of peaches and apples at 6@8c for the former, and 10@12c per ℔ for the latter.

EGGS.—The market for fresh eggs is brisk, but a moderate inquiry is made for pickled. The receipts continue light; sales at 29@30c for pickled, and 28@30c ℔ dozen for fresh.

FISH.—Prices remain unchanged. We quote: No. 1 mess mackerel $36; No. 1 mess mackerel, $27; extra No. 1 shore mackerel, $20; No. 1 shore mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $15; No. 2 yearling mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $11; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $5 to $9; white fish, $7 50@8 00; trout, $7 50@8 00; large Georges codfish $6 50 ℔ 100; medium Georges codfish, $5 50 ℔ 100; round herring, sale 50c ℔ box; No. 1 3c ℔ box.

FEATHERS.—There is little or nothing doing and can be quoted as before, ranging with the latest quotations for the leading commodities from store.

APPLES.—The receipts are still moderate, but fully up to the requirements of the market. With a good feeling, prices are well maintained. Regular sales were reported at from $1 50 to $2 50 per bbl for common to medium and at $3 50@4 00 per bbl for prime to choice.

ANIMAL.—The market continues quiet, with but little doing. The nominal rates are: Soda Ash, common, 3½@4c; Refined, 5c; Potash, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 6@6½c; Black Lead, 4@5c.

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ALLEGHENY LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 8, 1873.

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle this week by the different railroads centering at the Allegheny yards, were some twenty-two cars, the principal portion of which was Ohio stock. The quality of the offerings was fair, though fewer good were on sale than usually are and at the same time there was a perceptible falling off in the run of common, the offerings being principally of the medium grades. The market opened up at about seven o'clock slow, the butchers being unwilling to pay any advance, while drovers asked from ¼ to ½c more than they did last week. However, after looking around the yards and finding the supply limited, butchers commenced to buy, and at nine o'clock the market was quite active, and continued so until the close. All the offerings changed hands at an advance of from ¼ to ½c. There was no very good cattle on sale to-day and some of the butchers growled about the quality of the stock. No doubt good cattle would have sold readily here to-day for 6¼ to 7c, as it was we think from ½ to ¾c about as much as anything brought. On the whole the market was good, and the most satisfactory one drovers have had for a long time. Following are about the prices the different grades sold at:

PRICES.

Extra, 1,400 ℔ cattle, $6 75; extra 1,300 ℔ cattle, $6 25 to $6 50; prime 1,200 ℔ cattle, $5 75 to $6 00; fair 1,100 ℔ cattle, $5 00 to $5 50; fair 1,000 ℔ cattle, $4 25 to $4 75; common, $4 00; bulls, $2 50 to $3 50.

ARRIVALS.

Following are the arrivals of live stock for the week ending to-day:

	Cars.
J. R. & R. Balsdrof, from Mansfield	1
C. Besquer, from Indianapolis	2
E. H. Reynolds, from Indianapolis	1
H. L. & Co., from Crestline	1
Head & Trimble, from Orville	1
P. Snyder, from Orville	1
Loyd Nichols, from Orville	1
C. Labbitte, from Canton	1
A. McKorkle, from Sharon	1
Koerner & Bro, from Ellotsville	1
C. A. McCleary, from Bridgeport	1
C. Shoemaker, from Bridgeport	1
Jas Price, from Bridgeport	1
J. A. Vance, from Bridgeport	1
Robert Frater, from Bridgeport	1
Wm. Thompson, from Bellair	1
H. Doudna, from Bellair	1
Cocking & Co., from Bellair	2
J. M. Dickerson, from Bellair	2
J. Wyscaber, from Bellair	1
Thomas Finley	1
A. Frazier, from Bellair	1
Cars cattle	22
Cars hogs	2

Hogs.

The run of hogs this week was fair and in quality good. The market ruled active, and a large number of hogs changed hands. For good hogs $5 10 to 5 25 were the leading prices. Common sold down to $4 75.

Sheep.

The run of sheep fair. Demand light, but good, of which there was but a limited number on sale; sold well. Common dragged slow, and at the time we left the yards (two o'clock), there was still some tail ends unsold.

PRICES.

Extra	$5 25 to 5 50 per hundred lbs.
Prime	5 00 " "
Common	3 50 to 4 50 " "
Lambs	2 00 to 4 50 " head.

IRON MARKET.

NEW YORK.

DECEMBER 6.—Iron—Prices of Scotch pig, with small stocks and little or none on the way, are nominally higher, though business is at a standstill, except for small jobbing parcels from yard, the demand being only to supply immediate want—any pressure to realize could only be met by a considerable reduction from our quotations; we hear nothing doing in large parcels; we quote Glengarnock $22@23, Garsherrie $48, and Coltness $45@46; there is now no Eglinton in first hands. The low prices ruling for American have resulted in considerable business, which has taken place during the past 10 or 15 days, but only now made known, we give the particulars below; the sales made have been principally for cash, with prompt delivery; the consumers have not contracted ahead yet, and they look out of the market for that purpose; at present there is a great diversity of opinion respecting the future of American pig, persons of conservative views say the producing capacity of the furnaces has been increased fully 25 per cent, while the consumptive demand is acknowledged to be one third less than last year; if this be so, and the companies can afford to make iron at the present price, by the reduction in wages alone of 20 per cent, there is little room so early in the season to look for any higher prices, although some unexpected demand should spring up. The following sales were made in this and Philadelphia in the market during the last ten days, and including that noticed in our last: 1,000 tons No 1 Thomas for next season's delivery at $23; 1,000 do No 2 X and X Allentown, December and January delivery, $32 for No 1 and $30 for No 2; 1,000 do No 1 and 2 X Lehigh and North River brands, $32 for No 1 and $29@30 for No 2; about 5,000 do gray forge, $26 to $27; about 5,000 do mill iron, $28 (600 tons); and 1,000 do at a private price, delivery six months' time, to go East; since these sales were published strengthened the market, and we now quote No 1, $29@32; No 2, $29@30, and Gray Forge, $26@27; we understand that the furnaces have not sold any No 1 at less than $34, the last sales being for 500 tons of this grade, deliverable at Hoboken; No 2 do may be quoted $32; the stock of this brand is light, and is held for full prices. The market for bar is very quiet and firm, and there is no business of consequence moving, and our quotations are nominal. Old rails are very dull; we quote Nos 1 and 2 Delaware and Hudson at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Pennsylvania at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Boston and Albany at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Erie at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Lackawanna at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Jersey at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Long Island at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Harlem, $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Hudson River at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Western at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Virginia at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Canada at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Ohio at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Michigan at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Illinois at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Missouri at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Kentucky at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Tennessee at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Georgia at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Alabama at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Mississippi at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Louisiana at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Texas at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 California at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Oregon at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Washington at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Idaho at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Montana at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Wyoming at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Utah at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Nevada at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Arizona at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 New Mexico at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Colorado at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Dakota at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Nebraska at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Kansas at $30 @31; Nos 1 and 2 Indiana

THE MISSING WATER BONDS

Continuation of the Investigation.

Additional Testimony Adduced.

Mr. Ross's Affidavit Produced

Proposition for Settlement of the City's Claim,

The Action of the Commitee Thereon, &c.

The Finance Committee held another meeting, yesterday morning, in the City Controller's office, Colonel Wm. Phillips in the chair.

Col. Phillips stated that the object of the meeting was to go on with the investigation, and he desired to call Mr. Ross, ex-Secretary of the Water Commission, but he supposed it would be improper to do so now, as that gentleman had been prosecuted criminally. The Colonel also referred to the affidavit alleged to have been made by Mr. Ross before Commissioner Gamble, and stated that testimony in regard to that matter would also be in order.

After some conversation as to who should be examined first, a messenger was sent for Mr. Gamble, but he was not in his office.

Mr. H. M. Long, who was also understood to have made an affidavit, was also sent for, but he could not be found.

TESTIMONY OF A. M. BROWN, ESQ.

Maj. A. M. Brown, who had seen the affidavit of Mr. Ross, was called and sworn. His testimony was as follows:

I am acquainted with Mr. Ross; saw an affidavit made before United States Commissioner Gamble, asserted to have been made by John Ross; don't know the signature of Mr. Ross, but the name of John Ross was upon it; heard it read, and then took it in my own hands; my recollection of it is that the bonds were placed in the Nation Trust Company with the consent and knowledge of the Commission, for negotiation. The numbers of the bonds were given, &c., and the indebtedness set forth at $531,000; that was the substance of the affidavit; Mr. Acheson also saw the affi lavit; saw it on the second Monday after the disappearance of Mr. Grier; it was on Monday afternoon, two weeks after the disappearance of Grier; went with Mr. Acheson and saw it; think it was in the handwriting of Mr. Swoope; it was taken to me by Mr. Swoope, who exhibited Mr. Ross' bank book, also; saw the affidavit in Mr. Swoope's office; there was also another affidavit, made by Mr. Long, whom I see here now; Mr. Acheson read the affidavit in the morning, and I read it in the afternoon; could not say whether Mr. Swoope was in the office or not; the affidavit of Mr. Ross set forth the indebtedness in detail; do not know whether the affidavit was dated before or after the disappearance of Mr. Grier; the bank book of Mr. Grier was first submitted to us; statement in writing was also submitted, and then the affidavit of Mr. Long.

By Mr. Fetterman—It did not mention the names of the Water Commissioners who gave Mr. Ross the authority to make these deposits.

Major Brown—No, sir; it gave the authority in the general way: I first heard it read by Mr. Swoope, understood it, and afterwards read it myself; it set forth, in general, that the assent and knowledge of the Commissioners had been obtained; it also gave in detail the list of bonds, the amounts, &c., and said something about Wheelen, Townsend & Co., of Philadelphia.

Mr. Fetterman—There was nothing in it which referred to the resolution of April last, directing the deposit of bonds in the Nation Trust Company.

Answer—No, sir. It set forth in a general way that the authority of the Committee was obtained to the deposit of bonds and money with the Nation Bank.

TESTIMONY OF MR. H. M. LONG.

Henry M. Long, sworn—Am acquainted with Mr. Ross; never saw a water extension bond in my life; the only financial transaction of any character with Mr. Ross was one of a personal favor, which I will explain. My business as financial agent of Smith & Son, takes me to the Water Commission every day, for orders where to deliver pipe; that being so in the month of May last, April, perhaps, Mr. Ross, on several different occasions, handed me his bank book, and asked me to leave the check in the bank with Mr. Grier; that was the first and last of my business with him. The deposits amounted to about $207,000; (bank book shown;) this is the book in which I got the receipts; the first deposit was on May 8; the checks were all of Townsend, Wheelen & Co., and indorsed by D. W. C. Carroll; never carried any water bonds to the board; never knew he was putting a water bond in the National Trust Company; don't know why he deposited there; I took the first check there; imagine why he deposited there; got the book at first," John Ross, Secretary," at his request had the book changed to John Ross simply; think this book was left with the bank; know of no authority except what he told me.

Question—What did he tell you?

Answer—He told me that originally the Water Commission intended to negotiate the bonds in several of the city banks, such as Tee B. McVay & Co., Penn Trust Company, Geo. B. Hill & Co., and the Nation Trust Company; that he was authorized to negotiate bonds there; that he had authority to put them there.

Colonel Phillips—When was this?

Answer—Two or three days prior to the deposit of first check.

By Mr. Fetterman—What reason did he say he had for depositing the money in the Nation Bank?

Answer—It was a natural inference that the money was placed there because the bonds were not delivered as yet.

By Mr. Fetterman—What reason do you have for saying the money was required to be deposited there?

Answer—I don't think you have anything to do with what I imagine.

Mr. Fetterman—Why do you think the checks drawn at Philadelphia, and indorsed by Mr. Carroll, should be deposited with the Nation bank?

Answer—Because I thought the bonds were to be negotiated through that bank, and they had not yet been delievered.

By Mr. Negley—Do you know of Mr. Ross making an affidavit that the Commissioners had.

Answer—He made at the same time that I made mine; we signed them together; did not read Mr. Ross' affidavit; it was drawn by Mr. Swoope; did not hear it read; heard it talked about the central idea was that deposits were made by authority of the Water Commission.

Colonel Phillips—All of the deposits above the $297,000 were not made by me; all entries are made principally by Robert J. Grier, Cashier; other entries were made by Thomas Blair and Joseph Fetterhoff; the Blair mentioned is the messenger of the bank; we make our own deposits there, and I cannot tell all of the officers' figures.

To Mr. Negley—No person else but an officer of that bank made the entries. Am positive that Mr. Grier made entries in that book; can't swear to the entries of the others; there was no privacy about the book.

To Mr. Aiken—Do not know that the Directors of the bank knew I was depositing the money.

To Mr. J. H. Jones—Mr. Ross did not impose any secrecy on me. I did no more for him than I would do for any of you gentlemen.

Mr. McCune—Every entry in that bank is made by the clerks of that bank. I examined the book myself.

Col. Phillips—And the books of the bank show the account to have been with John Ross, Secretary.

To J. H. Jones—Could not say that there were any members of the Water Commission present when I received these checks; they might have been passing in and out of the room; no checks were given me on the state way; they were all given by Mr. Ross' room, and there was no secrecy about the deposits.

A DISCUSSION OF THE AFFIDAVIT.

Then followed a lengthy discussion between members of the committee and counsel in regard to the contents of the affidavit of Mr. Ross. Finally Mr. Swoope took the stand, and testified as follows:

TESTIMONY OF MR. SWOOPE.

Mr. Swoope—Two weeks ago, or immediately after the disappearance of Grier, Mr. Ross came to me and stated the fact that a large amount of money and bonds had been placed there; he gave me the papers in evidence and was anxious that I should do something to secure the claim of the city; I spent a week in obtaining the evidence as to the validity of the claim and towards the latter end of the week obtained the acknowledgment of the bank officers as to a certain amount of the indebtedness; this affidavit and another was drawn to obtain the acknowledgment of the bank of their liability and the amount of the debt; when I drew the affidavit, that clause relating to the knowledge of the Commission was draw up on the basis of that resolution passed in April, authorizing the Nation Trust Company to negotiate some of the bonds; that is what it contains; when I saw the report of the affidavit in the paper, and was asked about it, I said there was no affidavit that this transaction took place with the knowledge of the Water Commission; I never saw any other one but this, and the only thing in it referring to the knowledge of the Commission is what was read by Major Brown. I think the Committee will clearly understand me now.

QUESTIONS BY MR. BURGWIN.

By Mr. Burgwin—Then you drew that affidavit did Mr. Ross tell you that that resolution was rescinded on July 23?

Answer—I think he did not; I was not aware of that.

Question—Did Mr. Ross tell you that he had placed the bonds in the Nation Trust Company with the consent of the Commissioners?

Answer—He did not, and never said that any member of Water Commission had authorized him to place money or bonds there.

Question—Did Mr. Ross say when the bonds or money were placed there?

Answer—I can't say that he did; but I inferred it was from the commencement of the transactions with the Ntalon Bank, in acordance with the resolution of the Commissioners.

Question—Did he say what amount of bonds he was told to deposit with the Trust Company?

Answer—He did not.

By Mr. Fetterman—He did not say he had any authority for depositing money with the Nation Bank.

Mr. Swoope again explained that there were matters in the affidavit which it would not be well to place before the public at the present time. The paper had been submitted to the counsel for the bank because it had been prepared specially with a view of obtaining their acknowledgement of the liability and indebtedness of the bank.

Mr. Negley moved that the affidavit be read as a whole.

Mr. Swoope—I will read it without a motion.

The gentleman then read the affidavit as follows:

THE AFFIDAVIT.

Allegheny County, ss:

Personally came John Ross, who being duly sworn according to law, doth depose and say that Mr. Robert J. Grier, cashier of the Nation Trust Company, applied to him for the privilege of negotiating bonds of the Water Commission and to keep an account with their company; that he thereupon procured permission from the Water Commission to have the Nation Trust Company negotiate a part of the loan; that he delivered to said company for negotiation water extension bonds amounting to $254,000; that he also delivered to Wm. J. Friday, director, to be negotiated by said bank, fifty bonds issued for the improvement of Thirty-third street, of $1,000 each, numbered from one to fifty inclusive, on which he received $13,000 since that time, and for which the bank is entitled to credit; that he also deposited with said bank sundry checks amounting to the sums credited in the bank book herewith exhibited, amounting in all to $320,656 66—of which amount he drew out by checks $96,500 00; that there are two items, to which he is entitled to credit, not included in said bank book, as follows: The proceeds of a note discounted for $3,000, to wit: $2,938 and a deposit of cash, a ticket herewith presented of $2,900, which was paid to John McConnell, Esq., on account of a $5,000 protested check held by City Deposit Bank and Trust Company; that by arrangement with R. J. Grier, Cashier, interest was to be allowed on the daily balances at the rate of seven per cent., and that the correct account is as follows, to-wit:

Water bonds	$254,000 00
Cash proceeds sale of bonds	229,574 66
Interest on daily balances	9,655 32
Street bonds	$50,000 00
Interest account October, 1873	272 77
	$50,272 77
Cr. by cash	13,000 00
	37,272 77
	$531,522 75

That the above amount is justly due and owing by said Nation Trust Company to deponent, as the agent of the said city of Pittsburgh, all of said money belonging to the said city, excepting the proceeds of the notes above specified. JOHN ROSS.

Sworn and subscribed this 24th day of November, 1872, before H. D. GAMBLE, U. S. Commissioner.

Upon the conclusion of the reading of the affidavit, Mr. Swoope explained that there was a mistake in the total amount of $531,000, a bond for $10,000 having been returned, and is now in tre possession of the city authorities. The actual indebtedness, therefore, is $521,000.

MR. BURGWIN PROPOUNDS A FEW INQUIRIES.

Question by Mr. Burgwin—Did Mr. Ross say when the bonds were placed there?

Answer—He did not; he said that when the $229,000 became imperiled he put the bonds there to save the original amount.

Question—When did he placed the bonds there after September first?

Answer—Yes, sir.

Question—Did not say when the application was made by Robert Grier for the privilege of negotiating the bonds?

Answer—No, sir; but I inferred that it was in May last, judging from the date of the resolution. The accounts were kept in the name of John Ross, Secretary; I don't know who the deposit checks were made out by.

THE OPINION OF COUNSEL.

On motion of Mr. McConway, the opinion of the counsel for the city, on the proposition of the stockholders of the Nation Trust Company, for the settlement of the claim of the city, was then read. [This document is given in full in the proceedings of Councils elsewhere printed.] The paper was received and filed.

The proposition of the directors and stockholders of the Nation Trust Company for settlement was next read. [See proceedings of Councils.]

PREPARING FOR COUNCILS.

The proposition was then referred to the City Attorney for his opinion, and often some time spent in consultation. When such opinion was presented, to the effect that Finance Committee could accept, with the approval of councils, the last proposition of the bank.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Negley, instructing the committee to request councils to authorize a settlement upon the proposition approved of the counsel for the city.

After some further discussion, the Committee adjourned to meet on Wednesday afternoon, at three o'clock, to continue the investigation.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

District Court—Judges Ewing and White.

In the case of Richard Wellington vs. John Stoft, action to recover for the loss of a coal vault, the jury found for the defendant.

In the case of the Real Estate Savings Bank vs. Giles S. Bates, on motion of plaintiff's attorney the court granted leave to plaintiff to withdraw exceptions to return of Sheriff sale filed by plaintiff; and no other exceptions having been filed to said return heretofore confirmed *nisi* the return was confirmed absolutely.

The case of Whitehill vs. Caruthers, being an action for labor done, is on trial.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

169. Canfield vs. Snead.
170. Menter vs. Eckhart.
173. Burns vs. Welsh.
174. Casey & Fogerty vs. Gallager.

Common Pleas—Judge Collier.

The contested will case of West and others vs. Irwin and others, was being argued to the jury yesterday.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

144. Clark vs. Hertz, et al.
159. Hand, Jr. vs. Burke & Barnes.
170. Craighead vs. McGrew.
171. Same vs. Same.
172. Hutchinson vs. Padden.
173. Kauffman vs. Padden.
174. Hutchinson vs. Padden.
178. Jackson vs. Charley.
141. Hall vs. Bollman.
153. Alderson vs. Hahn.

Quarter Sessions.—Judge Sterrett.

J. J. and Philip King, indicted for larceny, and acquitted.

In the case of John Hickey, indicted for malicious mischief, a *nol pros.* was allowed upon the payment of costs.

Daniel McDonald, charged with assault and battery, on oath of Caroline McQuiston for aggravated assault and battery, was found guilty and sentenced to three years imprisonment in the penitentiary.

George W. Shannon was tried on a charge of assault and battery with intent to ravish and a rape upon Elizabeth Koebert. The jury is out.

TRIAL LIST FOR FRIDAY.

Commonwealth vs.

Henry Thomas,	John Goggins, et al.
D. I. K. Rine,	James Brown,
Wm. Miller, et al	Adolph Smith,
Wm. Gritke,	Richard Ennins.
Edward Williams,	Geo. A. Frazier,
John Finney.	John N. Miller,
Gerhart Schmalley,	P. J. Steiner,
Eliza McFilley.	Conrad Rosenburgh,
James Liney.	Joseph Rodgers, 2 cases
Chas. H. Miller,	Sarah McKinsey,

Great Missionary Demonstration.

The anniversary exercises of the Parent Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church commenced on Sunday and will close this evening. At the Sabbath morning service, special sermons were delivered in ten churches of that denomination in the two cities, by Bishop Simpson, Foster and Wiley, Revs. Eddy, Reid, Dashiel, Jewett, Buckley, George, Swaney, Sites and other distinguished ministers. In the afternoon Missionary mass meetings were held at four different places at the same hour. South Common church, Allegheny, Rev. J. W. Baker, pastor, presiding. Opening exercises by Rev. Roth-weiler. Addresses by Bishop Foster and Dr. T. M. Eddy, one of the Missionary Secretaries. Mass meeting at Liberty Street Church, Rev. A. B. Rieley, pastor. Rev. Dr. W. Hunter, editor of the *Christian Advocate*, presided. Opening exercises by Rev. W. Long. Addresses by Bishop Simpson and Rev. J. M. Buckley, of Brooklyn. Revs. A. Reid, D. D., and S. M. Vernon also present. Bingham Street Church meeting (South Side), Rev. L. McGuire, pastor. Addresses by Bishop Wylie, Drs. Reid and George, Drs. C. A. Holmes and Dashiel, and Rev. T. E. Hingley, R. T. Miller and J. Hollingshead, were present. The fourth mass meeting was at (Lawrenceville) Butler Street Church, Dr. W. H. Watkins presiding. Addresses by Mr. J. G. Matthews, Addresses from Rev. Drs. Swany and Jewett, and Rev. N. Sites.

In the evening, sermons, bearing upon the missionary cause, were delivered at Christ church, Smithfield Street, Trinity, Pennsylvania Avenue and Butler Street churches, in Pittsburgh, and at North Avenue, Arch Street and German churches, in Allegheny City, and at Sharpsburg.

Yesterday morning a Missionary Conference meeting was held in Smithfield Street church, Rev. Dr. C. A. Holmes presiding. Short, pithy addresses were delivered as to the best mode of raising the money necessary for the missionary operations of the church during the coming year.

In the afternoon a Missionary Love Feast was held in the same church, Rev. Dr. J. Horner presiding. Brief remarks were made by a number of ministers. The services were interspersed with prayer and singing.

At night the anniversary proper took place at Christ church, Penn street, Bishop Foster presiding. Rev. Dr. Jewett, pastor of the church, and Rev. Dr. Jewett, participated in the opening exercises. After brief introductory remarks by the chairman, addresses were delivered by Dr. Reid, of New York, Bishop George, of Western New York, and Bishop Wiley. Dr. J. Horner announced the programme for to-day, and Bishop Simpson pronounced the Benediction.

This morning at 10 o'clock a general meeting will be held in the North avenue church, Allegheny city, Rev. Dr. C. A. Holmes, pastor, for the purpose of hearing addresses from returned missionaries, and in the evening the closing exercises will take place in the same church. Bishop Foster and Dr. T. M. Eldy are expected to make addresses. These meetings have been intensely interesting, and we would advise those who have not attended the Sunday and Monday services to avail themselves of the opportunity this morning and evening.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

THE MISSING WATER BONDS.

A Stormy Debate in Joint Session.

PROPOSED SETTLEMENT WITH THE NATION TRUST COMPANY.

Grave Charges by Mr. Rafferty—Persons and Papers to be Called—Engineer's Estimates to be Looked After.

A regular semi monthly meeting of the City Councils was held yesterday afternoon and, as was expected, after the developments of the past few days it was a stormy and interesting one. The interest of course centered in the report of the Finance Committee concerning the missing water bonds, and when the debate took place in joint session, the large room was filled to overflowing, citizens filling the lobby to its utmost capacity. In the stormy debate between Mr. Rafferty and Col. Phillips, there was loud applause, in favor of both sides, and sometimes hisses, but the President demanded order in the assemblage, and asked that councils maintain their dignity.

SELECT COUNCIL.

In the absence of President Gross, Mr. Riddell was called to the Chair. The call of the roll showed but six members absent viz: Messrs. Gross, President, Friday, Montooth, McCandless, Shinn and Thompson.

RESOLUTION DEMANDING RESIGNATION.

After the usual preliminaries the regular order of business was called but Mr. Rafferty interrupted it with the introduction of the following:

WHEREAS, The members of the Water Commission, by reason of the late embezzlement of Water bonds, have lost the confidence of the public; therefore,

Resolved, That the members of said Water Commission are hereby respectfully requested to resign and surrender to the city the official trust reposed in them.

Mr. Rafferty moved the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Littell—I, for one, object, as an investigation of the matter is now going on.

Mr. Rafferty said he was credibly informed that there were other frauds; that improper estimates for work had been made by the engineers of the Commission, and that the city was being defrauded. He had this, he said, from the fountain head, and it was necessary for the people and in their interest to have the matter investigated thoroughly by competent and disinterested persons.

Mr. Aiken rose to a point of order, that under the rules the resolution could not be offered at this time.

Mr. Riddell, chairman, sustained the point.

Mr. Rafferty—I move a suspension of the rules.

The call was sustained, and the ayes and nays were demanded on the question by Mr. Rafferty. It was lost by the following vote:

YEAS—Brown, G. A., Dunnells, Dorrington, Foster, Galvin, Minnick, Murray, O'Neil, Rafferty, Zern—10.

NAYS—Adams, Ahl, Aiken, Atkinson, Atterbury, Brown, R. B., Chalmers, Dietrich, Doyle, Duncan, Elder, Fetterman, Froelich, Goldthorpe, Hains, Hays, Herron, Hunter, Jeremy, Jones, Kirk, Kline, Lally, Liddell, Lloyd, Littell, Marshall, Morrow, McClurg, McCune, McDonald, McGee, McMahon, Pearson, Phillips, Rayburn, Scully, Seely, Smith, Walters, Waring, Wilson—42.

The rules were therefore not suspended. Messrs. Burgwin, Kaufman and Watson were excused from voting.

Mr. Kirk said that the report of the Finance Committee should first be heard.

A SPECIAL COMMITTEE DESIRED.

Mr. Rafferty then presented the following and asked leave to call it up when in order:

WHEREAS, The Finance Committee of Councils, by reason of the opposition of those members of this body and others, who are interested in, or connected with, the late embezzlement of city water bonds, have been and are retarded and hindered from making a proper investigation of said frauds on the city; therefore,

Resolved, That a special committee of five, two from Select and three from Common Council be now appointed to take charge and control of and investigate said matter, with power to employ counsel, and to institute proceedings for the recovery of the amount lost, only to secure the funds of the city, but to bring to justice and punishment all city officers, principals as well as clerks and directors of the National Trust Company, as well as cashier and assistant. And that in constituting said committee, all members of Councils, who are also members of the Water Commission, directors or stockholders in the Nation Trust Company, and who oppose investigation as members of the Finance Committee, shall excluded.

REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The regular order of business was then proceeded with.

Mr. Chalmers presented a petition in favor of and an ordinance for the grading, paving and curbing of Vine street. The petition was received and Mr. Rafferty objected to the ordinance.

Mr. Chalmers moved a suspension of the rules, which was carried. The same motion moved the third reading and final passage of the ordinance.

Mr. Rafferty made a determined opposition that a few persons, interested in property on the improvement, while poor lot-holders are unable to pay for it at this time. He said that the orphan asylum was unable to pay as there was not enough money in the treasury, and that the orphans bread for the winter. He thought the interests of these orphans should outweigh two or three persons.

Mr. Littell—I have been mentioned by name said that he was not a party to the introduction of the ordinance, but he would say that the work would not cost more than $10,000.

Mr. Waring moved to amend that the work be not commenced until June next.

Mr. Chalmers said the work would not be commenced until June next.

The motion of Mr. Waring was lost.

Mr. Rafferty called the ayes and nays on the final passage of the resolution which resulted as follows: Ayes, 40; nays, 16, so that the ordinance was passed finally.

Mr. Riddell, from the chair, presented the report of the Mayor's auditing committee to be published for the proper time. This report is published elsewhere.

Mr. Foster, resolution instructing the Mayor to place sufficient force of police in the eastern portion of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth wards. Referred to committee.

The reports of the Committees on Markets and Roads were received. They have already been published.

Mr. Durling presented an ordinance providing for the opening of Virginia avenue. Laid over.

Mr. Elder offered a resolution requesting the Common Council to meet in joint session to hear the report of the Finance Committee. Adopted.

JOINT SESSION.

Common Council having entered the chamber, the chair announced that the business in order was to hear the report of the Finance committee.

REPORT ON THE MISSING BOND QUESTION.

Mr. Phillips then handed to the clerk to read, the report of the Finance committee, together with the third and second propositions made by the stockholders of the Nation Trust Company, the opinions of the counsel of the city on the subject, together with resolutions, as will be found below.

The clerk read the following

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

To the Honorable the Select and Common Councils of the City of Pittsburgh:

Your committee, to whom was referred the resolution of the 5th inst., authorizing an investigation of the manner and sale of the Water bonds alleged to be illegally deposited with the Nation Trust Company bank, respectfully report that they have held seven full daily sessions ever since the last meeting of Councils, as much of the time was first consumed in obtaining such evidence, documentary and otherwise, as to enable a full and satisfactory conclusion as to the situation of the bonds and monies in the hands of the bank. This being done, proceedings were had looking to an amicable settlement on the part of the stockholders of the bank of their liability to the city for the full amount claimed, and to an arrangement for such an amicable settlement for such liability as would be acceptable to your honorable bodies. During the conference on the subject between your committee and the stockholders of the bank, through the several attorneys of each, resolutions were adopted relative to legal proceedings against such officers and others as might be interested in the alleged illegal deposits of bonds and cash in accordance therewith. In connection with this necessarily brief statement, we present for your consideration the following resolutions:—

Resolution No. 1.—Relating to the alleged improper use of city funds.

Resolution No. 2.—The provision made by the attorneys of the Nation Bank looking to an amicable adjustment, with promise of security for payment for the debt due the city, accompanied with the opinion of the city attorneys relative thereto, and

Resolution No. 3.—The resolution of the Finance Committee, touching this proposition, all of which are respectfully presented for your consideration and action.

The report, as will be observed, is for want of time, merely one of progress, though you have all the important prominent points before you. In conclusion, your committee propose to hold regular daily sessions so long as any additional necessary information on the the subject can be had.

Signed by the committee.

THE REJECTED PROPOSITION OF SETTLEMENT.

The clerk read the following opinion of the counsel of the city on the first proposition of the stockholders of the Nation Trust Company:

To the Finance Committee of the Councils of the City of Pittsburgh:

GENTLEMEN—We have carefully considered the proposition of the Nation Trust Company, made through its counsel and the counsel of its stockholders, as follows:

1. The Directors and Stockholders of the Nation Trust Company propose that the city of Pittsburgh shall pay the indebtedness at Philadelphia for which the city bonds are held, or otherwise arrange the matter so as to relieve and save said bonds from sacrifice for said indebtedness.

2. That the amount so paid by the city to relieve said bonds or assumed and secured by the city, for the relief of said bonds, shall be charged against the bank in the cash account in the books of the bank, and deemed an indebtedness to be included in any award made against the bank and in favor the city.

3. The indebtedness of the bank to the city, as soon as ascertained by the award of arbitrators (and also all other indebtedness of the bank), shall be secured by first mortgage on real estate, of ample value—with proper provision for speedy foreclosure and sale, in case of default—to secure the payment of the said indebtedness of the bank as follows, viz: One-fourth in 18 months; One-fourth in 24 months; One-fourth in 3 years, and One-fourth in 4 years, with interest thereon at the rate of—per cent from the date of said award.

4. The controversy between the city and the bank, as to the claim of the former, shall be referred to three referees, mutually chosen, whose award, or that of a majority, shall be final and conclusive, without exception or appeal.

5. The referees—James Veech, Esq., William Holmes, Reuben Miller, Jr.

We are of opinion that this proposition cannot be accepted by our committee or the Councils of the city, and that if it could be, it ought to be rejected as a matter of propriety and expediency. It is a grave question whether Councils have the power to make such an appropriation of city funds as would be necessary to carry the proposed arrangement into effect, or any such investment of municipal moneys as is contemplated by it. The Act of Assembly of 6th of April, 1850, restricts the power of Councils to appropriate monies to four specific purposes: 1. For the payment of the interest of the funded debt of the city. 2. For the payment of the salaries of city officers. 3. For the payment of the ordinary current expenses of the city, and 4. For defrayment of the cost of such extraordinary improvements, erections and purchases as may from time to time become necessary for the convenience and prosperity of the public. It is obvious that none of these "objects" and "purposes" would include the extraordinary transaction contemplated by the proposition under consideration.

We think, moreover, that the proposed mortgage would be no additional security for the debt, to that which the city now possesses in the individual liability of each stockholder of the bank to the extent of his entire estate. For are also of opinion that the proposed arbitration is unnecessary and inexpedient. In any proceeding to recover the bonds and money the exact claim of the city can be established beyond a question of doubt, as ascertained by arbitration, which would only waste time and add the risk of an additional and superfluous tribunal.

We think it highly important that there should be an amicable and prompt adjustment of the claim of the city, not only in the interest of the city, but in that of the one hundred and fourteen stockholders of this bank. Hence we have done everything in our power to promote an amicable arrangement, to avoid, if possible, a resort to proceedings in bankruptcy, which would be, almost in itself, a public calamity. So many of the stockholders are leading business men, engaged largely in manufacturing, employing hundreds of persons, and their interests are so interlocked and blended into those of the whole community, that to proceed against them in bankruptcy will bring about great destitution and distress, and involve thousands of persons wholly innocent and unsuspecting. But we confes our patience is about exhausted. Two weeks have been spent in vain interviews and consultations between committees and counsel, without having arrived at any tangible or practical result.

It has now come to the question of whether we shall longer protect the interests of these stockholders at a risk of more than half a million of dollars of the money of all the people, or whether we shall secure the interests of the great body of the people by embracing the full and adequate remedy which the law places in our hands.

Under your resolution, passed on Saturday evening, we have full power to institute such proceedings as we may deem proper to secure the claim of the city. We propose at once to act under that authority, and as soon we can prepare the case we will proceed to invoke every provision of law known to us to enforce the prompt payment or security of the whole amount due by the Nation Trust Company to the city.

Very Respectfully,

THOS. S. BIGELOW,
D. T. WATSON,
H. B. SWOOPE,
of Counsel.

Mr. Phillips—That proposition was the first one presented but being rejected under the advice given was withdrawn.

The accepted proposition was next read as follows:

To the Finance Committee of Councils.

The directors and stockholders of the National Trust Company, collectively known as the National Trust Company, propose—

1. That the Receiver already appointed with the consent of all parties, shall proceed to realize upon the assets in his hands as rapidly as possible, and apply the proceeds thereof as fast as realized to the payment of the first payment of twenty-five per cent. before its maturity.

2. That the said Directors and stockholders will submit the question of indebtedness of said company to the city of Pittsburgh, including interest on deposits to day of payment, outside of the bonds in Philadelphia on which liability is admitted, to the arbitrament of William Holmes, Thomas M. Howe, and Jas. Veech, or Jesse Indine, or the majority of them, shall be final and conclusive, and if further agree to furnish all the evidence relied upon by them to the said referees, and said award to be made within ten days.

3. That the said Directors and stockholders will, within twenty days' time from this date, furnish approved securities satisfactory to the city, for the payment of their indebtedness, as follows:

Twenty per cent. in twelve months; twenty per cent. in eighteen months; twenty per cent. in twenty-four months; twenty per cent. in thirty months, and twenty per cent. in thirty-six months, said securities to be given James Veech, Esq., as trustee of stockholders and creditors.

4. That the city undertake to redeem their bonds pledged by notes of the Trust Company, to-wit: By paying notes falling due in January and February, by negotiation of the bonds hypothecated as collateral for them, said stockholders agreeing to pay notes falling due in March, 1874, and also assist in raising the moneys necessary for the payment of the January and February notes by participating in the orphans bread for the winter. He thought the interests of these orphans should outweigh two or three persons.

Mr. Littell—I, for one, object, as an investigation of the matter is now going on.

Mr. Rafferty said he was credibly informed that there were other frauds; that improper estimates for work had been made by the engineers of the Commission, and that the city was being defrauded. He had this, he said, from the fountain head, and it was necessary for the people and in their interest to have the matter investigated thoroughly by competent and disinterested persons.

Mr. Aiken rose to a point of order, that under the rules the resolution could not be offered at this time.

Mr. Riddell, chairman, sustained the point.

Mr. Rafferty—I move a suspension of the rules.

The call was sustained, and the ayes and nays were demanded on the question by Mr. Rafferty. It was lost by the following vote:

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The rules were therefore not suspended. Messrs. Burgwin, Kaufman and Watson were excused from voting.

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